WHAT REVOLVES AROUND AL AND NERI

by Basso

STORY 1

Thank you...

RAW PROVIDER.....ROOFTOP SCENERY
TRANSLATOR.....HATSUMIMI
PROOFREADER.....MIWA CHAN
CLEANER.....MINELAUVA
TYPESETER.....KPOSSIBLE
QUALITY CHECK.....STILETTO

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EDGE COMIX

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Alvin Dolee
Congressman from the opposing party. Openly announces that he is gay!
Fausto Carraro
Congressman from the ruling party. Keeps his homosexuality a secret.
Geno Carraro
Carraro's younger brother and a media genius. Sells gossip from his older brother to the tabloids.
Bruno Bardet
Carraro's lover and a camera-man

Neri
Al's lover. Loves sophistication and works in a hotel restaurant
Anna Maria Carraro
Carraro's daughter.
Carraro's secretary.
Marcello's son
Marcello
Owner of a Gelateria

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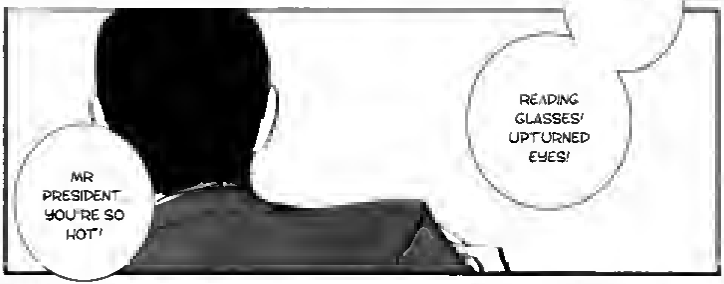
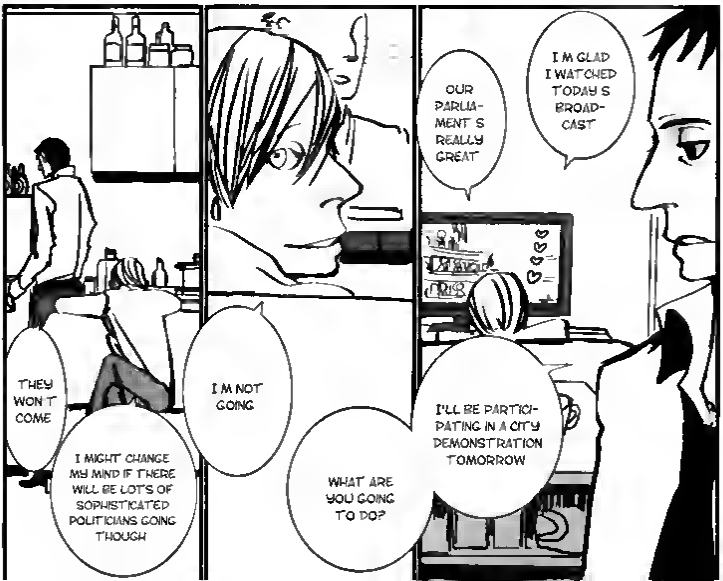
LA GUE!
VOTA S
1

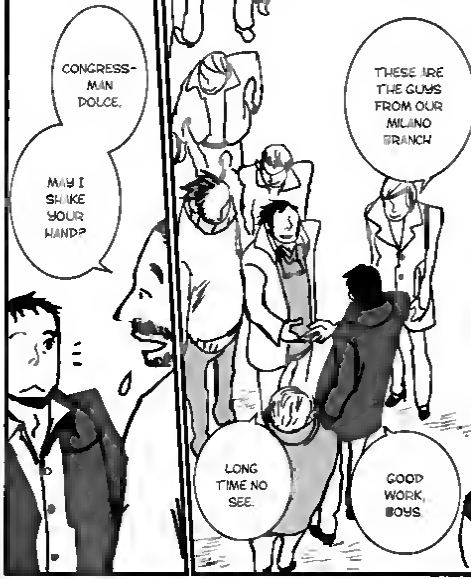

OHH
READING GLASSES' UPTURNED EYES!
MR PRESIDENT YOU'RE SO HOT!

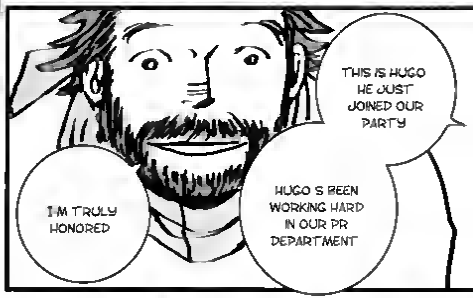

I'M GLAD I WATCHED TODAY'S BROAD-CAST
OUR PARLIA-MENT'S REALLY GREAT
I'LL BE PARTICI-PATING IN A CITY DEMONSTRATION TOMORROW
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M NOT GOING
I MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND IF THERE WILL BE LOT'S OF SOPHISTICATED POLITICIANS GOING THOUGH
THEY WON'T COME

Ahh!
HE WAS MAKING A SPEECH?
Aww, I should've watched the broad-cast.
THE TRUTH IS THEY'LL BE GOING SINCE IT'S A NATION-WIDE DEMON-STRATION INVOLVING THOSE GUYS THAT SHOWED UP ON TV AND OTHER BIGWIGS WITHIN THE ALLIANCES
SOMEONE
MAN
big round-up
BUT I'M NOT TELLING HIM
BECAUSE I KNOW HIS MOTIVES ARE IMPURE.

AL

I OFTEN HEAR RUMORS ABOUT YOU FROM EVERYONE IN OUR BRANCH.
I SAW YOUR PUBLIC SPEECH WHEN YOU LAST CAME TO ROME


CONGRESS-MAN DOUCE.
MAY I SHAKE YOUR HAND?
THESE ARE THE GUYS FROM OUR MILANO BRANCH
LONG TIME NO SEE.
GOOD WORK, BOYS.


THIS IS HUGO HE JUST JOINED OUR PARTY
I'M TRULY HONORED
HUGO'S BEEN WORKING HARD IN OUR PR DEPARTMENT

WOW!
Doesn't look anything like it!
HE'S 19.
HE'S GOT ONE, BIG MIDDLE-AGED BELLY THOUGH
19?

IT'S MY GOAL TO BECOME A POLITICIAN LIKE YOU
still asleep.
Zzz...
UNLIKE SOMEONE ELSE
MEETING YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE THIS GIVES ME PEACE OF MIND

HE'S A NICE KID
WORKS REALLY HARD
WE RAN OUT OF POSTERS ANNOUNCING THE VENUE FOR THE ASSEMBLY...
I'LL HAVE THEM TAKE ANOTHER LOOK... AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL.
WELCOME TO MILANO!
AH! CONGRESS-MAN
HEY
SO WE'RE GOING TO HAVE T-SHIRTS
TO MATCH WITH THE HANGING BANNERS?
HE REMINDS ME OF YOU, AL.
HUH
SO HUGO'S REALLY FOCUSED
YOU'RE GIVING YOUR PUBLIC SPEECH TOMORROW

IT'S ENCOURAGING TO SEE YOUNG MEN SO FULL OF ENERGY.
DELL'ITALIA

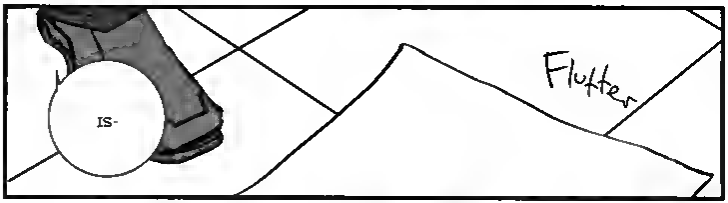
GOOD WORK.
YOU'RE COMING TO DINNER TOO, RIGHT?
WELL...
I HAVEN'T FINISHED THE FLIERS FOR TOMORROW'S SPEECH
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.
OH, NO! I CAN'T HAVE YOU DO THAT
eek!
YOU HAVE TO TAKE TIME OUT TO EAT AT LEAST
JUST DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TO DRINK

Click
WHICH FLIER IS IT?
COME AND SHOW ME.
I REALLY HAVEN'T DONE MUCH...
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
DON'T LIKE WRITING COMPOSITIONS?
Nervous about being watched
Fidget Fidget
IS THIS THE DRAFT?
OKAY, I'LL POLISH IT UP.
eek!

Sidenote: The center-right alliance = conservatism; a political party alliance that pairs non-socialistic articles.
Ktac
Ktac
Ktac
ALWAYS KNEW THE CENTER-RIGHT ALLIANCE WAS STRONGER IN MILANO.
IT CAN BE BRUTAL TERRITORY FOR OUR FACTION.
BUT WE'RE GAINING MORE SUPPORT EVERY YEAR.
YOU'RE FROM MILANO?
YES
DO YOU ROOT FOR INTER OR MILAN?
I'M NOT REALLY INTO SOCCER
OH
YEAH?
Napoli fan

KEEP ON WORKING HARD LIKE YOU RE DOING NOW
I REALLY LIKE PEOPLE LIKE YOU
AND COME TO OUR HEAD-QUARTERS ONE DAY
THOUGH YOU LL RUN INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE TRYING TO BECOME A POLI-TICIAN LIKE ME
THERE S
ANOTHER REASON WHY I ADMIRE YOU
WHAT IS IT?

SORRY IT'S A LITTLE STRONG
I'LL CHANGE THE SETTINGS
WHIRR
IT'S OKAY
GRAZI.
IT HELPS THAT IT'S COOLED DOWN A BIT.
WOW!
YOU'RE FAST!
I'M ALREADY FINISHED.
CHECK IT OVER.
YOU'RE EVEN DONE WITH THE DISHES!
YOU'RE A GENIUS
ONLY THIS TIME, OKAY?
YOU'LL HAVE TO PULL YOUR OWN WEIGHT NEXT TIME


IS-
Flutter

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT?

Squeeeeze

HAVE I MOVED YOU TO TEARS?
THE OTHER REASON WHY I ADMIRE YOU...
IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO OPENLY ANNOUNCE THAT YOU RE GAY
I HAPPEN TO BE GAY...TOO
YOU RE AN AMAZING PERSON
I THINK HIGHLY OF YOU
BUT
I M

STILL YOUNG, CONGRESS-MAN.
I CAN'T HOLD IT IN.
WAH!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

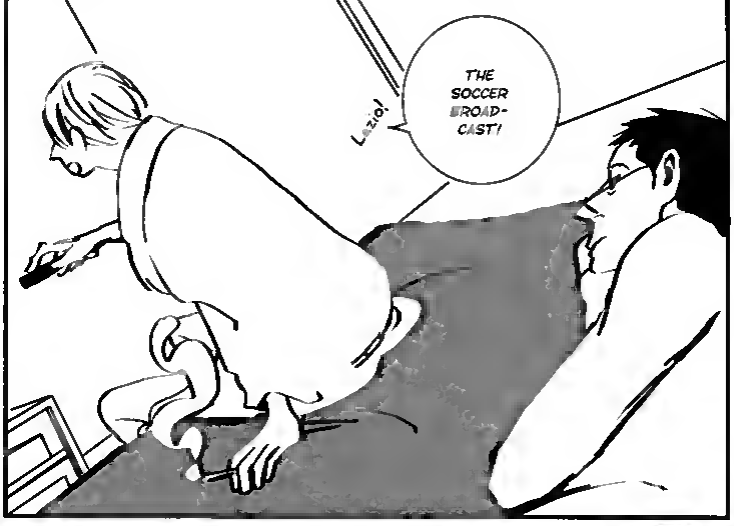
OF COURSE I ADMIRE YOU
BUT I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT DOING ANY OF THIS
I REALLY WASN'T
I...
REALLY DIDN'T PLAN ON DOING THIS AT ALL...
TRUST ME
BUT
I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT I CAN

DO SOME-
THING SO
ASTONISH-
ING!
HAVING YOU
UNDERNEATH
AND GAZING
UP AT ME
WITH YOUR
UPTURNED,
FARSIGHTED
EYES.

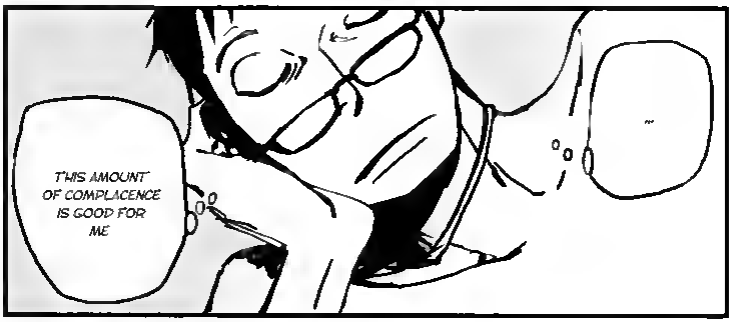
OH, BOY...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
Sallcoble
that...
It's too late for
Haa
hgg

Drip

IN THE END
Changed his mind.
THEY'RE BOTH
THE SAME
OH!


THE SOCCER BROAD-CAST!
Lazio!

I M GLAD I M LIVING WITH YOU AL
YOU HAVE SATELLITE, SO I CAN WATCH THE GAMES ON TV
MY ONLY JOYS IN LIFE ARE OBSERVING SOPHISTICATED MEN AND SOCCER


...
THIS AMOUNT OF COMPLACENCE IS GOOD FOR ME

◆ END ◆

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(We promise we won't bind and torture you unless we really have to.)

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STORY 2

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2

THANKS
IT WILL BE A GREAT INTERVIEW
I MUST HAVE A WORD WITH THE CONGRESSMAN ABOUT NEXT MONTH'S RALLY
SAY HELLO TO GENO FOR ME

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WORD GETS OUT ABOUT BRUNO?
EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER IF NEWS OF YOUR HOMO-SEXUALITY GETS LEAKED OUT
THE WORLD WILL LEARN ABOUT YOUR LIE
THIS WON'T BE CONFINED TO ONLY HIM

THE ELEVATOR IS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION...
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP SELECT PICTURES?
I'M TAKING THE BACK EXIT.

Vvvvv
Forgot my keys in the room...
DAMN...
...

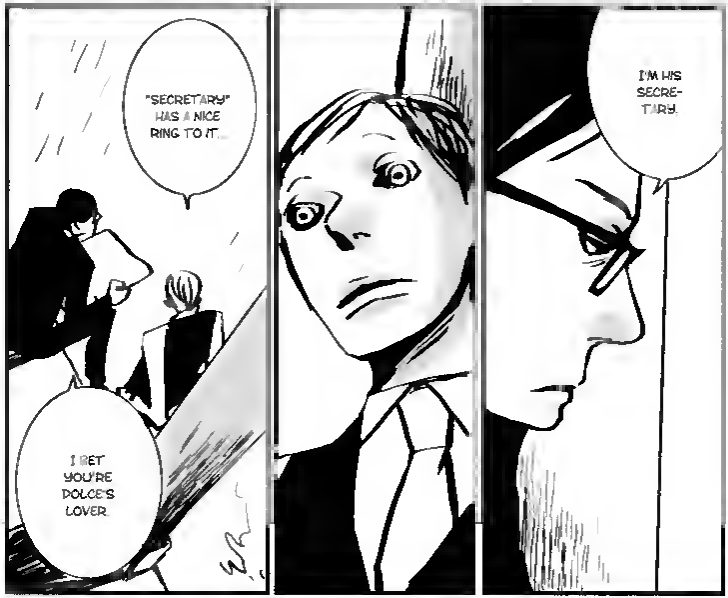
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T PLAN ON CONTINUING IN THIS LINE OF WORK FOR LONG
IT'S JUST THAT I NEED YOUR HELP
WITH THIS SITUATION

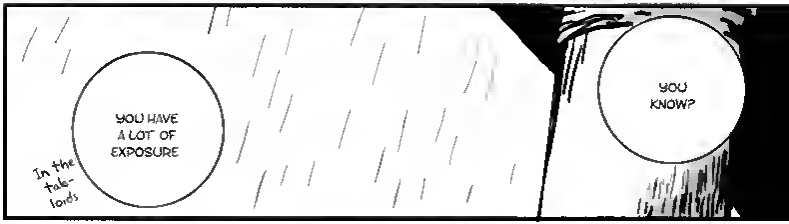
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE I WAS SICK OF
HAVING TO UPHOLD MY TITLE AS A POLITICIAN.
I PUT MY LIFE ON DISPLAY.
AFTER I SET THE SHORTEST RECORD FOR CABINET DISSOLUTION,
I FIGURED THAT
KNOWLEDGE OF MY HOMOSEXUAL AFFAIRS WOULD GET DRAGGED OUT INTO THE PUBLIC.
THE WAY THEY ARE NOW
SO THINGS ARE BETTER
SSSH
I JUST WANT TO GO HOME...

YOU KNOW THERE'S A SOFA IN THE LOBBY?

TAKING SHELTER FROM THE RAIN?

TIGHT-LIPPED, HUH?
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE
WERE YOU ON TV?
...
Stand-ing in Carraros shadow!
YOU'RE A POLITICIAN!


"SECRETARY" HAS A NICE RING TO IT...
I BET YOU'RE DOLCE'S LOVER
I'M HIS SECRE-TARY.

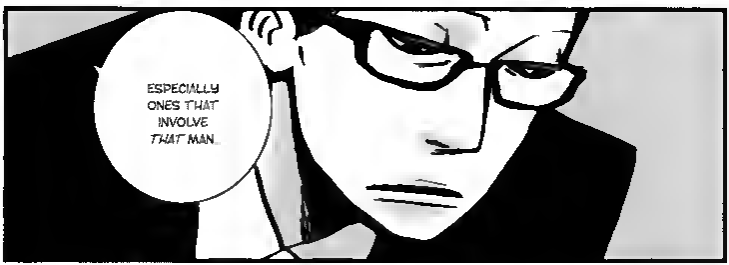

In the tele-lands
YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPOSURE
YOU KNOW?

DON'T TELL ME CARRARO'S HERE TOO?

AH WITH A MAN RIGHT?
I didn't know...
When?
I'VE HAD SEX WITH HIM ONCE
At this hotel
HEY HOW ABOUT WE
OH
YOU'RE MARRIED

HOW BORING...
Reading the news-paper.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES...
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF ONE RIGHT NOW...
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT ABOUT ALL MARRIED MEN?
NO
NOT IN PARTICU-LAR
You given off that vibe.

LOOKS LIKE SECRETARIES LIKE YOU HAVE YOUR SHARE OF TROUBLES.
SAME HERE
Observing intern
Uses the weekly tabloids to do


ESPECIALLY ONES THAT INVOLVE THAT MAN.

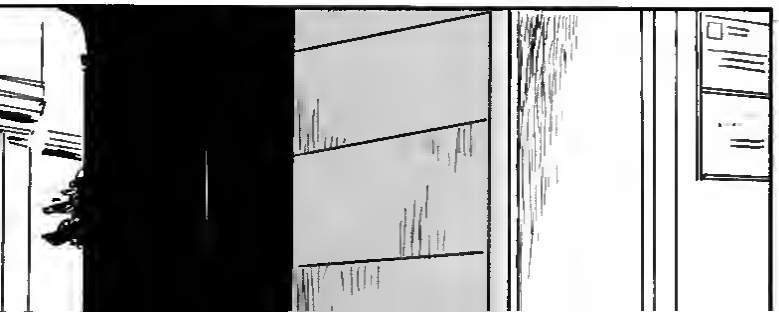
PPPP

OH! SOUNDS FUN! I'LL GO!
OKAY. MIDNIGHT IT IS THEN
HEY GUESS WHO'S AT THE BACK EXIT OF THE HOTEL RIGHT NOW?
YOU WON'T-
OH IT'S AL
PRR
CIAO!
DON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD!

SPLASH
STOP IT...
WOOW
...

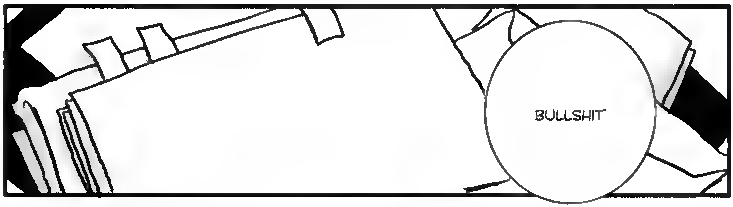
...
Bluuush
OOPH!
"OOPH"...?
HEY!
AHH!

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
IS IT YOUR HEAD? YOUR STOMACH? WHICH ONE...?
I'LL CALL AN AMBU LANCE...
Squish



EXCUSE ME.
CAN'T I JUST CALL TO CONFIRM?
I TOLD YOU. HE'S RECUPERATING AT HOME...
THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITHOUT OUR
NUMBER ONE SECRETARY.

It's your fault!!
...
Stress-related inflammation
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A MAN CAPABLE OF SELF-MANAGEMENT?
YOU RE THE MOST PRECIOUS PERSON TO ME


BULLSHIT

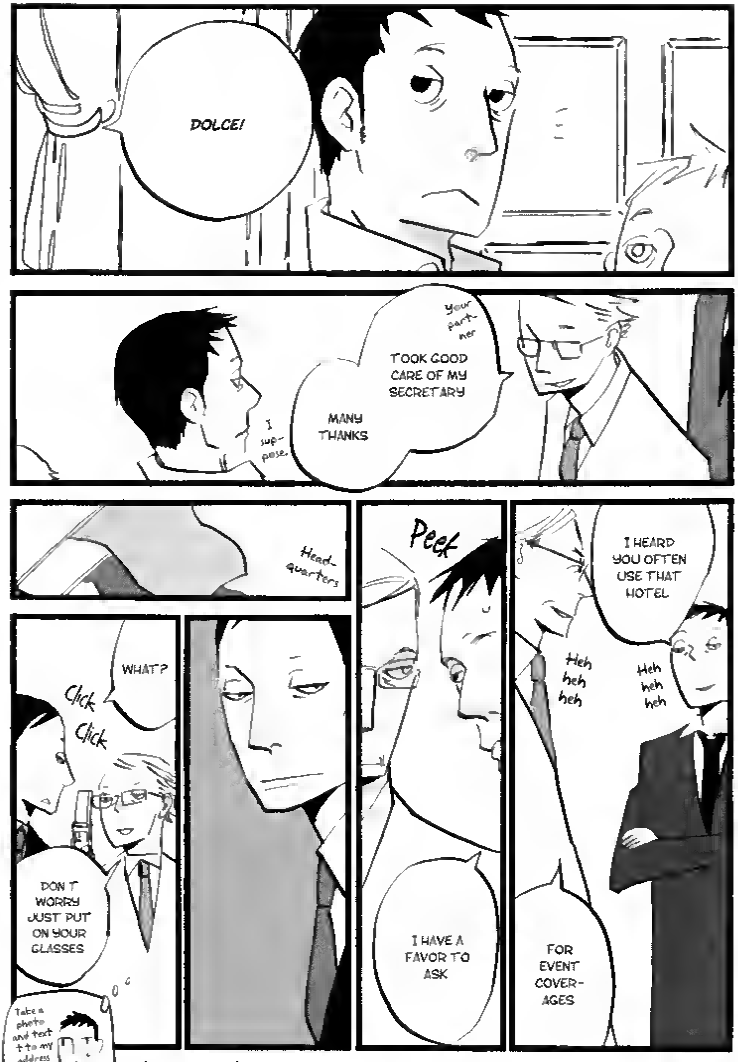
FIRST WOULD BE
YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER, GENO

THEN IT'S YOUR FREEDOM

AND THEN YOUR REPU-TATION.

◆ END ◆

HEY, AL?
CAN I STILL ATTEND A RALLY EVEN IF I DON'T SUPPORT THE PARTY?
YOU'D NEED A PARTY MEMBER CERTIFICATE
WANT TO MAKE ONE?
...
IT'S FOR CARRARO'S PARTY
I MISS HIS SECRETARY!
Ahh! I want his picture on my phone!
I'M A SUCKER FOR THOSE TYPES!
I'm going to bed
MAYBE I'LL WAIT IN FRONT OF THEIR HQ
Not a good idea. You'll get us exposed
IF I WIN THE NEXT ELECTION AND BECOME CARRARO'S POLITICAL OPPOSITION
I MAY ENCOUNTER HIM IF I PARTICIPATE IN A TOWN MEETING
But I'm not sure if Carraro would show up...
SO YOU JUST HAVE TO BE IN THE OPPOSITION?
GO FOR IT, AL!
Ruling party? Ruling party?
Why does this feel like the first time he's ever cheered me on?


DOLCE!
I suppose
MANY THANKS
TOOK GOOD CARE OF MY SECRETARY
your partner
Head-quarters
WHAT?
Click Click
DON'T WORRY JUST PUT ON YOUR GLASSES
Take a photo and text it to my address
Peek
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK
I HEARD YOU OFTEN USE THAT HOTEL
Heh heh heh
Heh heh heh
FOR EVENT COVERAGES

◆ END ◆

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Thank you...

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TYPESETER.....MINELAUVA
QUALITY CHECK.....STILETT

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STORY 3-4

3

STILL READING THAT?
CONGRESS-MAN DOLCE IS AMAZING
HE'S GETTING MORE EXPOSURE
THAT'S A GOOD THING
HIS DETERMINATION IS GENUINE
HE'S GOING TO LEAD OUR PARTY SOME DAY

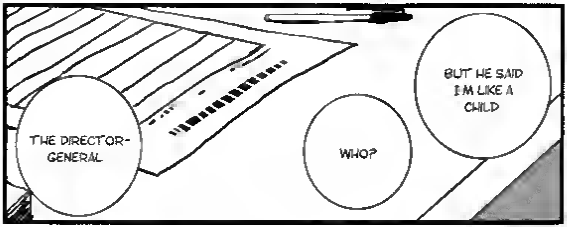
NOT GOING HOME?
GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH MY WIFE
YOU HAVE BLANKETS. DON'T YOU? BRING THEM OUT
PHEW
DIRECTOR-GENERAL. YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE CONGRESSMAN, AREN'T YOU?
WE WORKED TOGETHER AS YOUNG LADS
I RESPECT HIM
YOU *REALLY* ADORE AL, DON'T YOU?
BUT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS A POLITICIAN, HE *MUST* KEEP MAKING PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
THERE'S PLENTY OF GOSSIP FLOATING AROUND BECAUSE HE'S A GAY MEMBER OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

IT'S LIKE WATCHING OVER A YOUNGER BROTHER'S SUCCESS
WELL WHAT CAN I SAY?
GRAZIE.
AS FOR YOU,
I FEEL I'M CLOSELY WATCHING A CHILD GROW UP
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

ROME
WASN'T I SCHEDULED TO BE OVER THERE THIS WEEK?
DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY FROM MILANO FOR MY SIGNATURE?
WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR?
I DON'T KNOW THE DATE OF YOUR SIGNING

RACCOLTA

I'M NOT YOUR FATHER
DON'T COME HERE FOR THAT

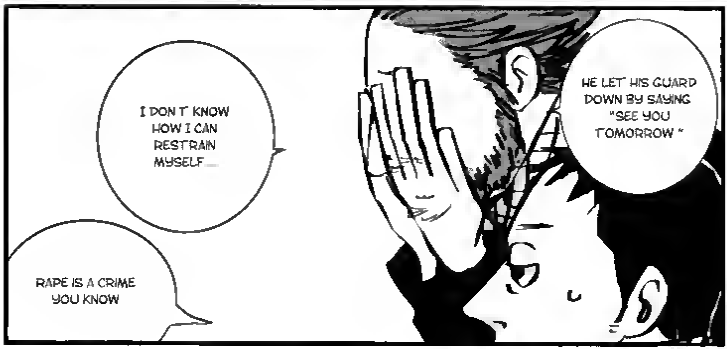

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL
WHO?
BUT HE SAID I'M LIKE A CHILD

I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT, EITHER...
I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME AS A KID...

...

I SEE...
LOVE, HUH?

HE'S GENTLE,
DEPENDABLE, AND HANDSOME.
I fell in love before I knew it...
WELL, HE IS PRETTY SENSIBLE...
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD MY FAMILY THAT I'M GAY YET...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN COME TO FOR ADVICE...
DON'T GO AROUND ASKING OTHER PEOPLE!
THE GUY IN QUESTION...
IS IT THE... DIRECTOR-GENERAL?


I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN RESTRAIN MYSELF...
RAPE IS A CRIME YOU KNOW
HE LET HIS GUARD DOWN BY SAYING "SEE YOU TOMORROW."

IT'S BEEN... THREE YEARS...

SINCE YOU'VE BEEN IN LOVE?

wahh!
Then why did he attack me?

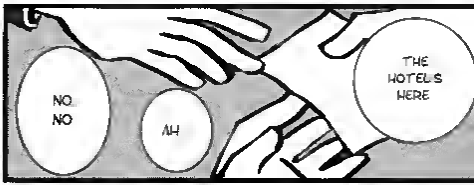
YO!
BUT HE'S IN A QUARREL WITH HIS WIFE.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT
I UNDERSTAND.
STAY AWAY FROM HIM.
HE HAS A FAMILY.

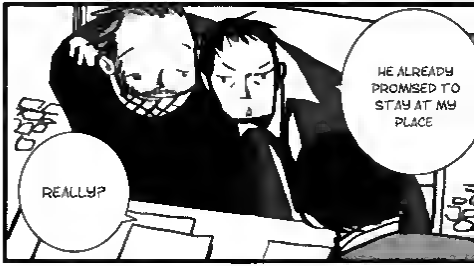
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN ROME?
THERE'S A PARTY GATHERING TOMORROW
HEY
YOU'RE WORKING HARD
HUGO YOU CAME TOO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UM...
HE'S HELPING OUT WITH THE SIGNING
I WAS PLANNING TO TAKE THE LAST FLIGHT...
GREAT
WHERE'S YOUR HOTEL?
IT'S A DOUBLE ROOM
OH THEN YOU CAN STAY IN MY ROOM

sigh...
YOU SHOULD PUT AN END TO YOUR FEELINGS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

WE'VE NEVER FOUGHT FOR MORE THAN TWO DAYS

MY WIFE HAD PLANS SO SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT
WHAT ABOUT YOUR QUARREL?


NO NO
AH
THE HOTEL'S HERE

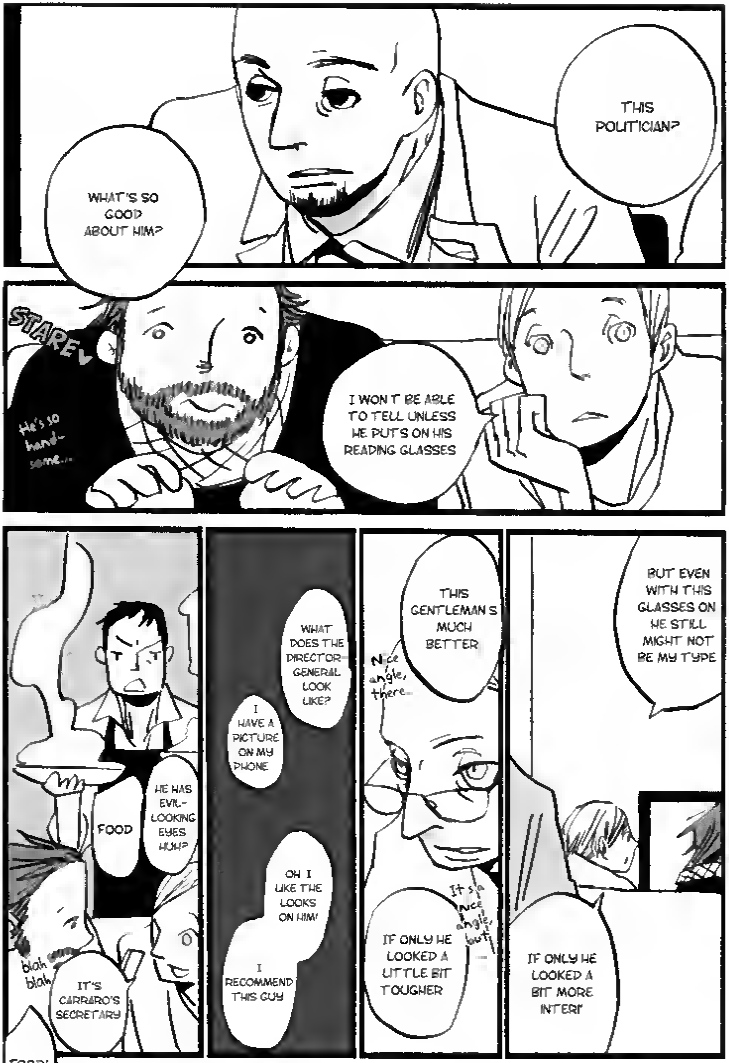

REALLY?
HE ALREADY PROMISED TO STAY AT MY PLACE

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HAHAHA
WE'RE GOING TO TALK ALL NIGHT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

HELLO.
YOU'RE WORKING HARD
DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER GAY CONGRESSMEN?
YOUR ROMANTIC STANDARDS ARE BIZARRE
IF ONLY YOU WERE A LITTLE TOUGHER...
You'd be perfect...
...
I already have a partner of sorts.
YOU NEED TO MOVE ON TO SOME OTHER PERSON
A CONGRESSMAN FROM ANOTHER PARTY...
WRITE IT DOWN
LET'S WORK TOGETHER

APPARENTLY HIS TASTES FALL TOWARD SPORTS-ORIENTED FARSIGHTED POLITICIANS

◆ END ◆


THIS POLITICIAN?
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM?
STARE
He's so handsome...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL UNLESS HE PUTS ON HIS READING GLASSES
FOOD
HE HAS EVIL-LOOKING EYES HUH?
blah blah
IT'S CARRARO'S SECRETARY
FOOD!
I HAVE A PICTURE ON MY PHONE
WHAT DOES THE DIRECTOR GENERAL LOOK LIKE?
OH I LIKE THE LOOKS ON HIM!
I RECOMMEND THIS GUY
THIS GENTLEMAN'S MUCH BETTER
Nice angle, there...
IF ONLY HE LOOKED A LITTLE BIT TOUGHER
It's a nice angle, but...
BUT EVEN WITH THIS GLASSES ON HE STILL MIGHT NOT BE MY TYPE
IF ONLY HE LOOKED A BIT MORE INTER!
This is what he meant when he said they will be talking all night about the country's future...

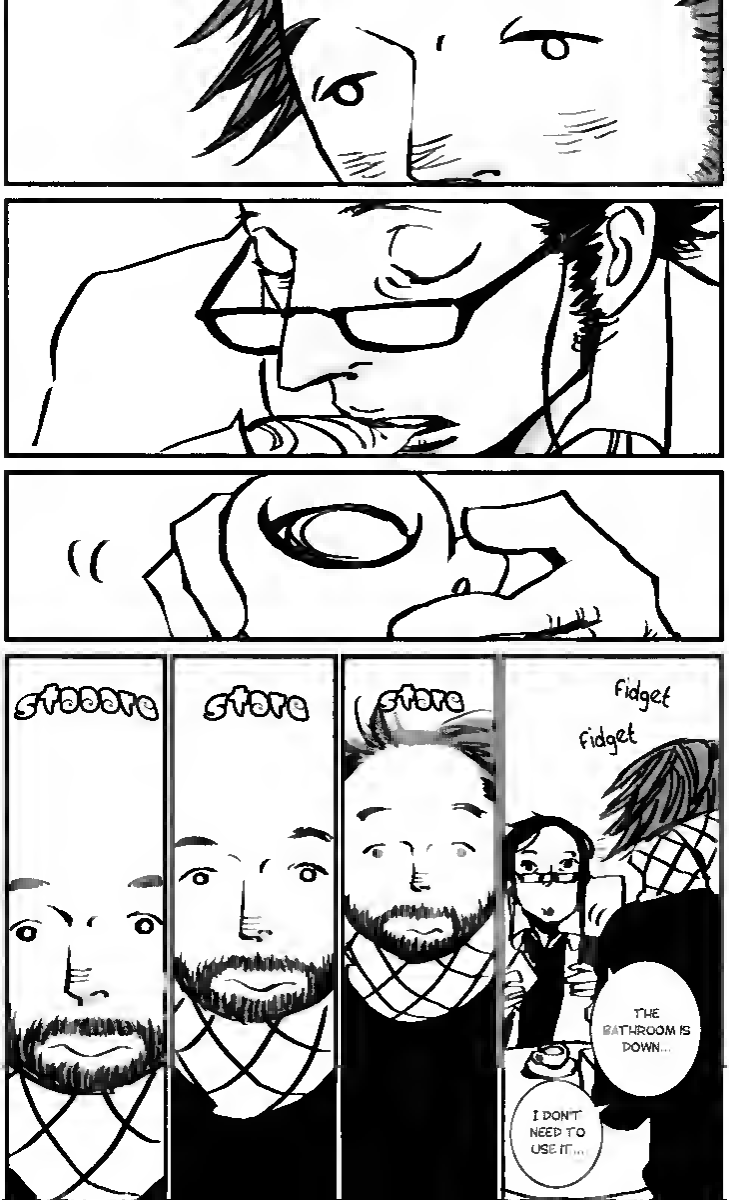
CONGRESSMAN DOLCE IS THE OPPOSITE
YOU SAID THAT YOU LIKED "INTER!"
DID I MAKE YOU BLUSH?
...
How cute.
...
BWUNCH...
YEAH HE IS
BUT HE'S ATTRACTIVE

◆ END ◆

4

Termini
TWO TICKETS FOR MILANO PLEASE
NOT YET
BOUGHT YOUR TICKET YET?
DIRECTOR-GENERAL!
here.
IT'S OKAY

ARE YOU OKAY WITH SWEETS?
OKAY. I'LL TAKE IT.
LET'S GRAB A COFFEE
I'LL TREAT YOU HERE
GRAZIE.


stare
stare
stare
Fidget
Fidget
THE BATHROOM IS DOWN...
I DON'T NEED TO USE IT...

OH.
RIGHT HERE.
YOU HAVE CRUMBS AROUND YOUR MOUTH.
WHAT IS IT?

◆ END ◆

WHAT REVOLVES AROUND AL AND NERI

by Basso

STORY 5

Thank you...

RAW PROVIDER.....ROOFTOP SCENERY
TRANSLATOR.....HATS
PROOFREADER.....MIWA CHAN
CLEANER.....MINELAUVA
TYPESETER.....MINELAUVA
QUALITY CHECK.....STILETT

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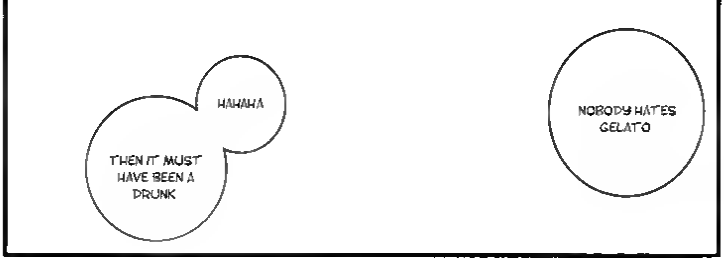
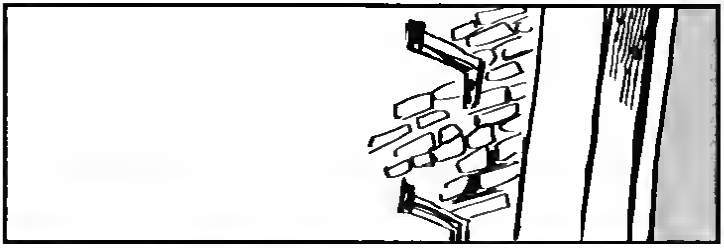
5

GELATERIA DI MARCELLO

IT WAS BROKEN WHEN WE PASSED BY.

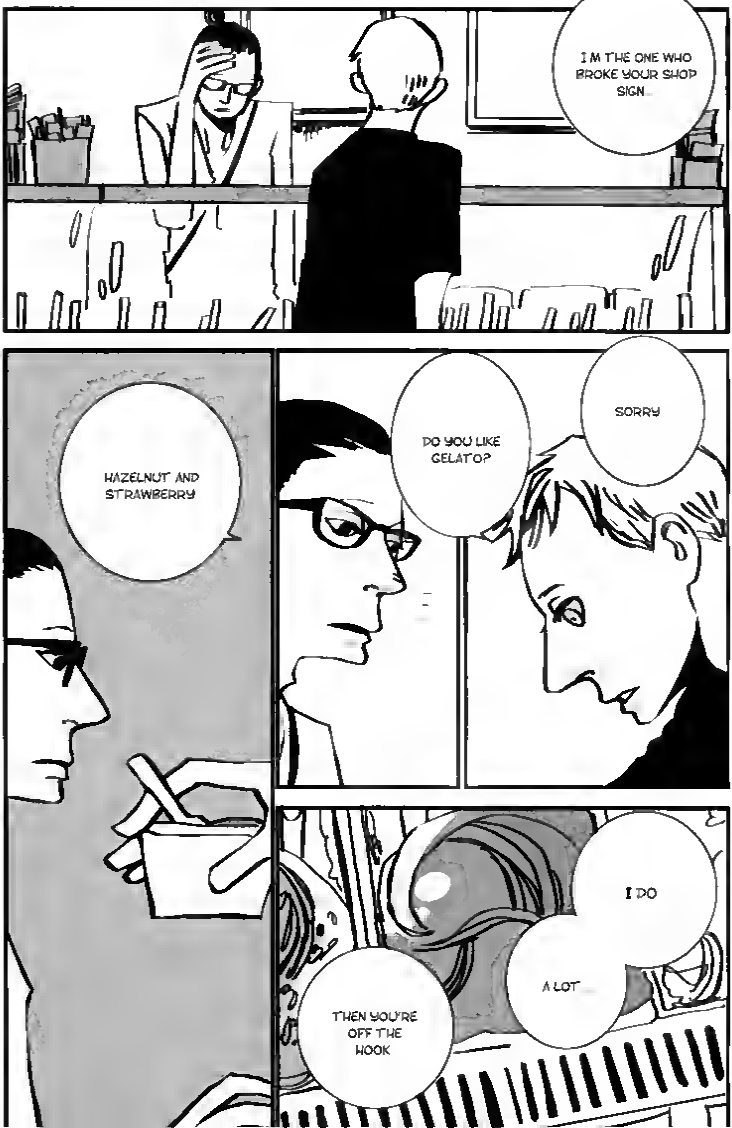
I MADE THE PHONE CALL IN A HURRY
HOW AWFUL.
WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE BROKE OUR SHOP SIGN.
I'M GOING, DAD.
YEAH, DON'T BE LATE.
PROBABLY SOME KID PULLING A MEAN PRANK
IT'D BETTER NOT BE ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS
NONSENSE.
YOU MEAN THE GELATO ONE?
Something like this
YEAH
MAYBE IT'S THE WORK OF A GUY WHO HATES GELATO?


NOBODY HATES GELATO
HAHAHA
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DRUNK

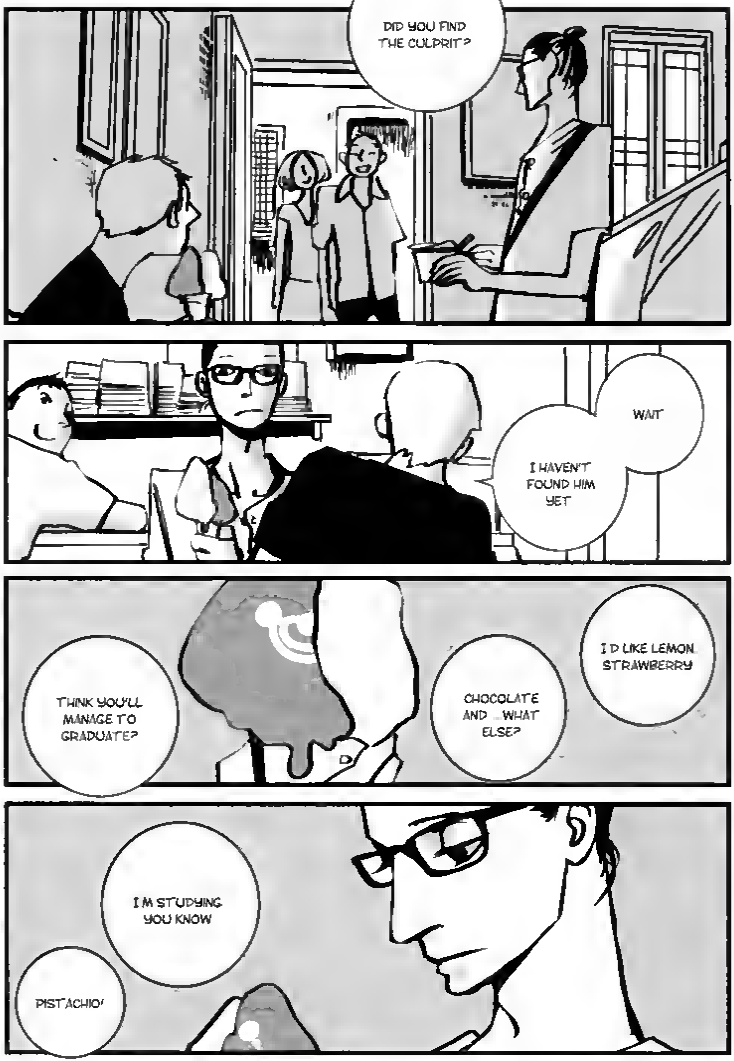


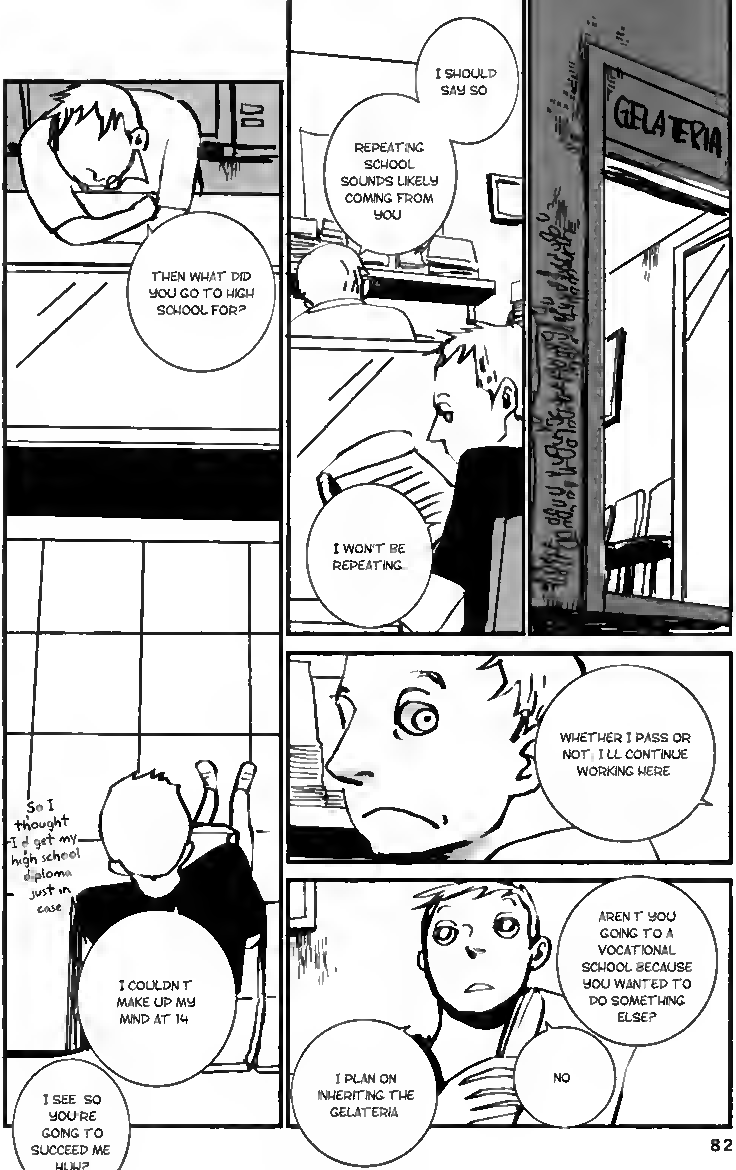
TEND TO THE SHOP FOR ME
OK

I REMEMBERED IT WHEN I PASSED BY THIS SHOP
SO I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION
I HAD WAY TOO MUCH TO DRINK THAT NIGHT.

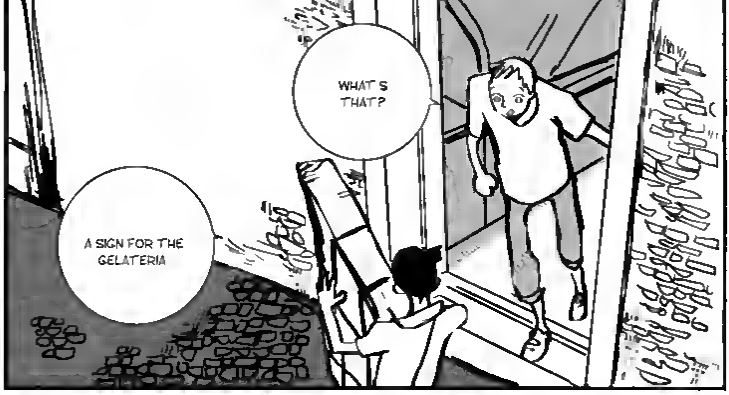

I M THE ONE WHO BROKE YOUR SHOP SIGN...
SORRY
DO YOU LIKE GELATO?
HAZELNUT AND STRAWBERRY
I DO
A LOT...
THEN YOU'RE OFF THE HOOK

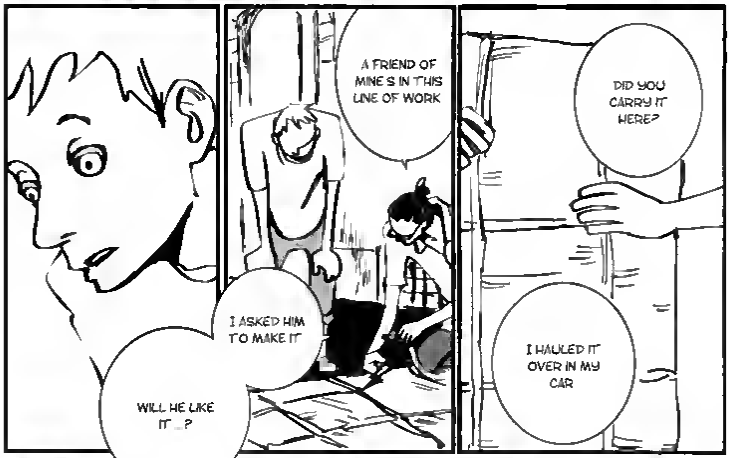
I'M NOT REALLY A FAN OF THE SIGN.
I'LL KEEP SAYING THAT I HAVEN'T FOUND THE CULPRIT.
OUR SHOP'S MOST POPULAR ITEM.
PRETTY TO LOOK AT YES BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TASTY
IT DOESN'T HAVE THE SOFTNESS OF GELATO
AT ALL.
IT SHOULD BE MORE LIKE THIS
A SENSE OF MELTING AND MESHING.

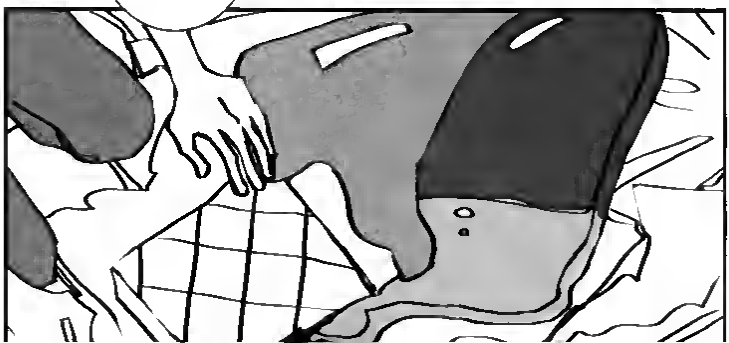

DID YOU FIND THE CULPRIT?
WAIT
I HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET
I'D LIKE LEMON STRAWBERRY
CHOCOLATE AND WHAT ELSE?
THINK YOU'LL MANAGE TO GRADUATE?
I'M STUDYING YOU KNOW
PISTACHIO!


I SHOULD SAY SO
REPEATING SCHOOL SOUNDS LIKELY COMING FROM YOU
GELATERIA
I WON'T BE REPEATING
THEN WHAT DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL FOR?
WHETHER I PASS OR NOT, I'LL CONTINUE WORKING HERE
So I thought I'd get my high school diploma just in case
I COULDN'T MAKE UP MY MIND AT 14
I SEE SO YOU'RE GOING TO SUCCEED ME HUH?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ELSE?
NO
I PLAN ON INHERITING THE GELATERIA

I'M GOING HOME TO STUDY
KEEP AT IT
YOU'LL MATURE AND BE MY SUCCESSOR
AND THEN WHEN YOU HAVE A FAMILY YOUR CHILD WILL BE THE NEXT SUCCESSOR
MARCELLO'S GELATERIA WILL BE HANDED DOWN FOR ETERNITY!

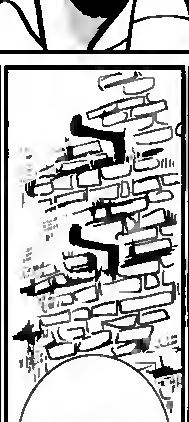

WHAT'S THAT?
A SIGN FOR THE GELATERIA


A FRIEND OF MINE'S IN THIS LINE OF WORK
DID YOU CARRY IT HERE?
I ASKED HIM TO MAKE IT
I HAULED IT OVER IN MY CAR
WILL HE LIKE IT...?



IT'S REALLY MELTING!

GELATE
I WANTED TO GIVE THE OWNER A PROPER APOLOGY
AH... I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.
HE WAS REALLY ANGRY.


IT'S THIN. SO IT MIGHT SPLIT IF YOU HANG IT UP THERE.

HE WAS QUITE CONSERVATIVE WITH THE HAZELNUT, THOUGH
NO, IT'S OK.
THE CHOCOLATE IS POPULAR TOO.

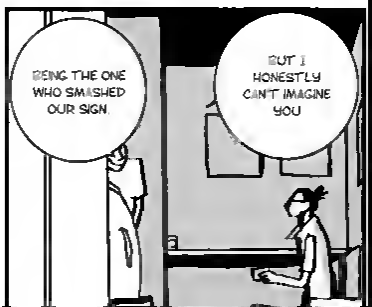
IT' LL BE FINE IF WE HANG IT ON THE WALL LIKE THIS

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW SIGN?
I LIKE IT!
NICE, IT'S REALLY NICE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, IF IT ISN'T GELATO!
OH!
WHAT'S THAT?
I'M SORRY
AS AN APOLOGY FOR SMASHING OUR SIGN
HE BROUGHT IT OVER

I'M GLAD HE LIKED IT

HOW ABOUT CHOCOLATE AND HAZELNUT?
I'LL ADD SOME STRAWBERRY

WOULD YOU LIKE THE CONE OR CUP?
CUP...
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

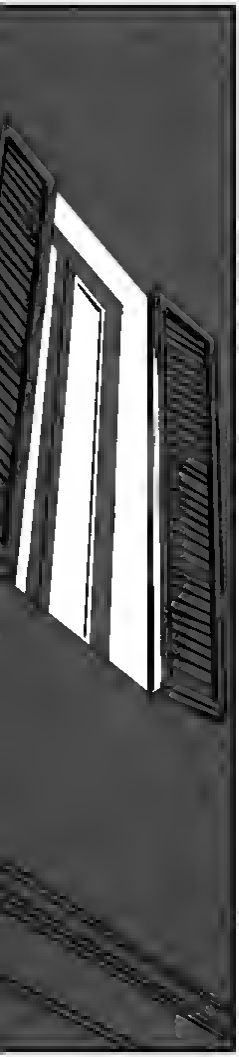

BEING THE ONE WHO SMASHED OUR SIGN
BUT I HONESTLY CAN'T IMAGINE YOU

YEAH...
GROWN-UPS MUST HAVE A LOT ON THEIR MINDS.
YEAH
LATELY I'VE BEEN
DRINKING A LITTLE TOO MUCH.
I JUST WANT TO GET MARRIED
BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS

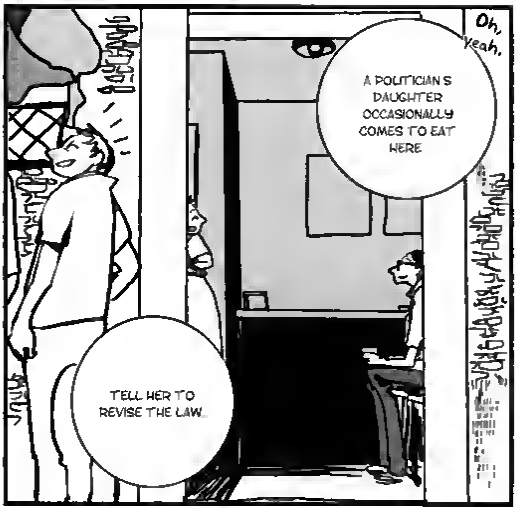
MARRIED?
WELL... I CAN'T
NOT IN THIS COUNTRY

I UNDERSTAND
WE HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF APPEARANCES
WHEN YOU SAY YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED,
ARE YOU FIXATED ON DOING IT IN THIS COUNTRY?
WHAT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ALLOW IT?
IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD IT IN A CHURCH HERE,
BUT YOU CAN EXCHANGE VOWS WITH THE BLESSING OF UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE
AS FOR ME

THAT'S WHAT I PLAN ON DOING.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER MEET THAT PERSON
AND I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN DATING ANYONE
I'VE NEVER KISSED ANYONE OUTSIDE OF A GREETING EITHER



HOPE THINGS GO WELL WITH YOU AND YOUR PARTNER
YOU'RE GETTING LECTURED BY THAT SORT OF GUY


Oh, yeah.
A POLITICIAN'S DAUGHTER OCCASIONALLY COMES TO EAT HERE
TELL HER TO REVISE THE LAW.

GETTING DRUNK CAN BE SCARY
HEY!
STICK TO DRINKING DILUTED BEER
GIVE ME A LITTLE
HOW MUCH DOES A QUIET GUY LIKE THAT NEED TO DRINK BEFORE HE START'S SMASHING THINGS?

MARCELLO
HOW D YOU DO ON YOUR TEST?
NOT BAD
I'LL BE OUT LATE TODAY
DON'T GET TOO WILD

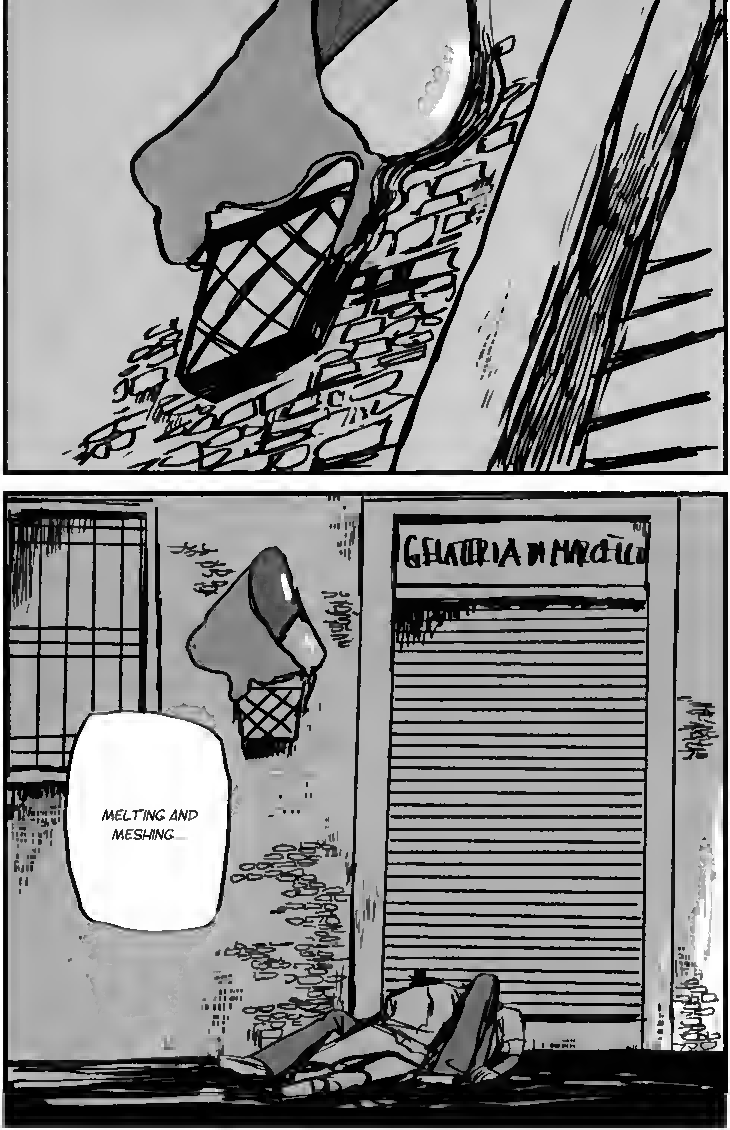
WILL I EVER MEET SOMEONE I D WANT TO MARRY?

WE'LL DRINK HARD NEXT TIME.
FOR OUR GRADUATION PARTY

Phew!
IT'S INTACT...
HEY
DON'T FALL ASLEEP THERE

CLATTER
HEY...
WHERE'S YOUR HOU

I WANT RELIEF...
A SENSE
OF



◆ END ◆

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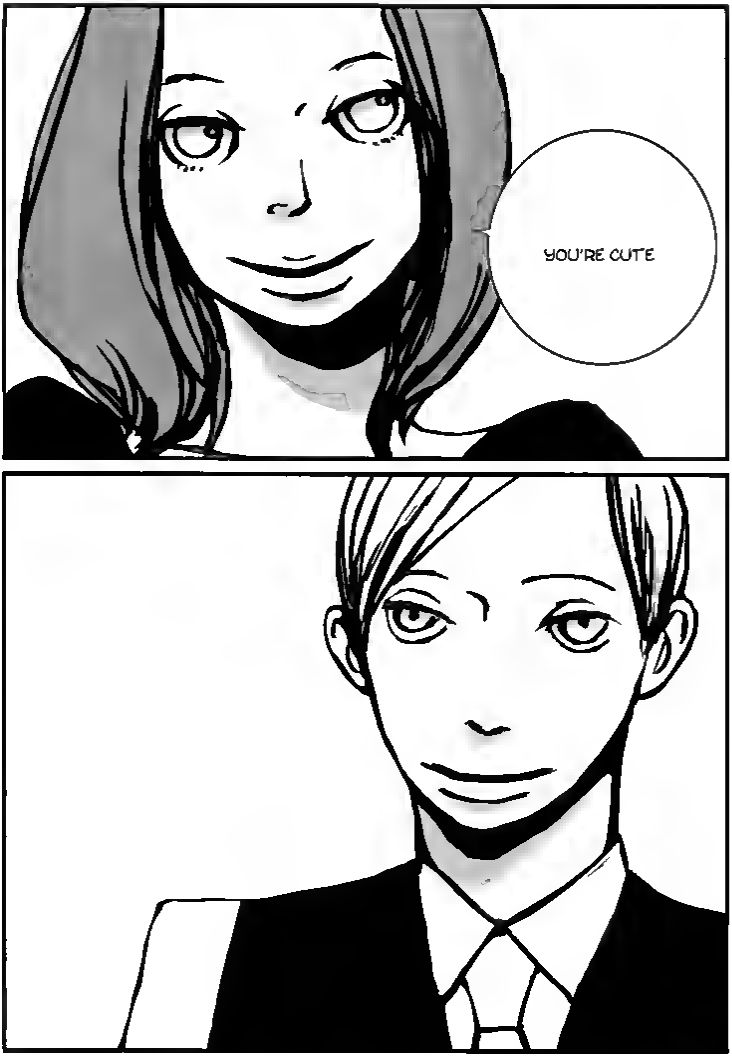
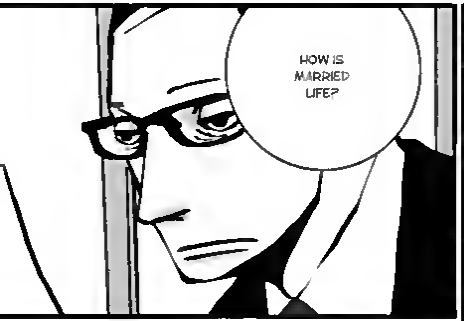

YOU'RE CUTE

LISTEN TO THIS PAPA
there, there...
OH MY LONG TIME NO SEE
YOU SEEM KNOWLEDGEABLE
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
IS THAT TRUE?
HE TOLD ME "ALMOST ALL OF THE CAMERIERI HERE ARE GAY."
WHEN I WENT TO A CERTAIN RESTAURANT THE OTHER DAY AND HIT ON A CAMERIERE* THERE

*Italian word for "waiter".

TWO YEARS AGO...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, PAPA?
Why not indeed...
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN MY SECRETARY ARE YOU?
!
WHEN?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ISN'T INTERESTED
THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS
I made sure to throw him a party as well
HE'S A VALUABLE RIGHT-HAND MAN

HEY, YOU'RE NOT EVEN DISCUSSING WORK-RELATED STUFF.
UH-HUH.
REGARDING THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

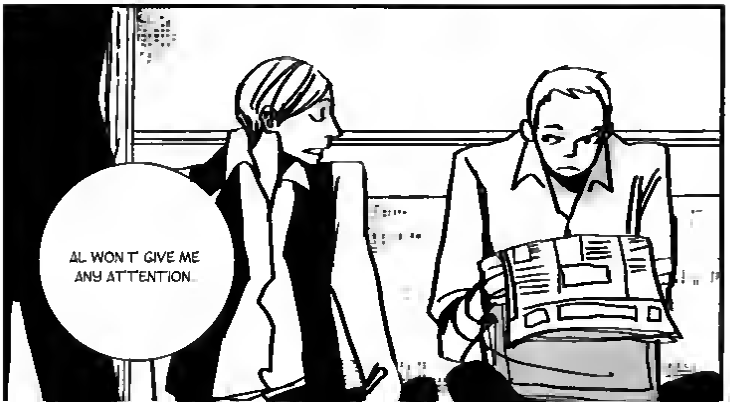

HOW IS MARRIED LIFE?

WHAT'S COME OVER HER...?
SHE'S COMING OF AGE...
SHE MAKES ME WORRIED, CHASING AFTER MEN AT HER AGE.

THERE'S NO HARM IN ASKING EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
WHY... THE SUDDEN INTEREST?
WILL THIS MENU SUIT YOU?

THERE YOU GO AGAIN.
WE CAN NEVER HOLD A LONG CONVERSATION IF YOU'RE ALWAYS DODGING ME.
HERE IS THE GUEST LIST.
GOODNESS! IT'S AS IF YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT A LONG-SWORN FRIEND IF IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BUSINESS.

YOU RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T CARE
YOU RE IN THE WRONG SEASON
REALLY?
I M GOING TO BED
OK
POLITICIANS HAVE WORK TO DO WHETHER WE HAVE ELECTIONS OR NOT
ARE ELECTIONS COMING UP?


AL WON'T GIVE ME
ANY ATT'ENTION.

THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S BUSY

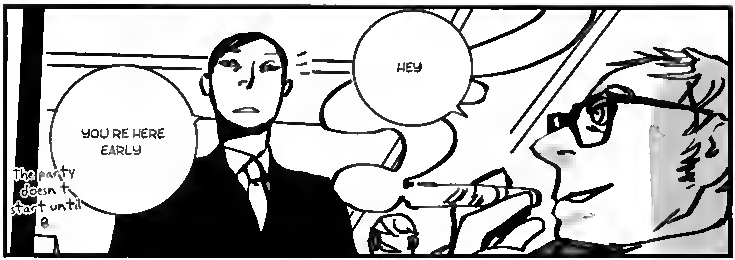
WHY?
HE WAS PROMOTED TO ANOTHER POSITION WITHIN THE INTERNAL PARTY. REMEMBER?
Considering he's been in parliament for ages.
AND DURING THAT TIME THE PARTY LEADERS CHANGED AND HE BECAME PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION RIGHT?

SIGH
YOU EVEN HAVE CARRARO'S SECRETARY ON YOUR CELL PHONE SCREEN
DOLCE'S GOT HIMSELF ONE DAUNTING LOVER
likes politics
SO THE PARTY LEADERS CHANGED?
THERE WAS A PARTY CONVENTION LAST MONTH. REMEMBER?
Oh.
SO THAT'S WHAT ALL THAT COMMOTION WAS ABOUT

NERI
AREN'T YOU OFF ON FRIDAY?
MIND WORKING?
AWW
WELL. OKAY
I'll be free anyway

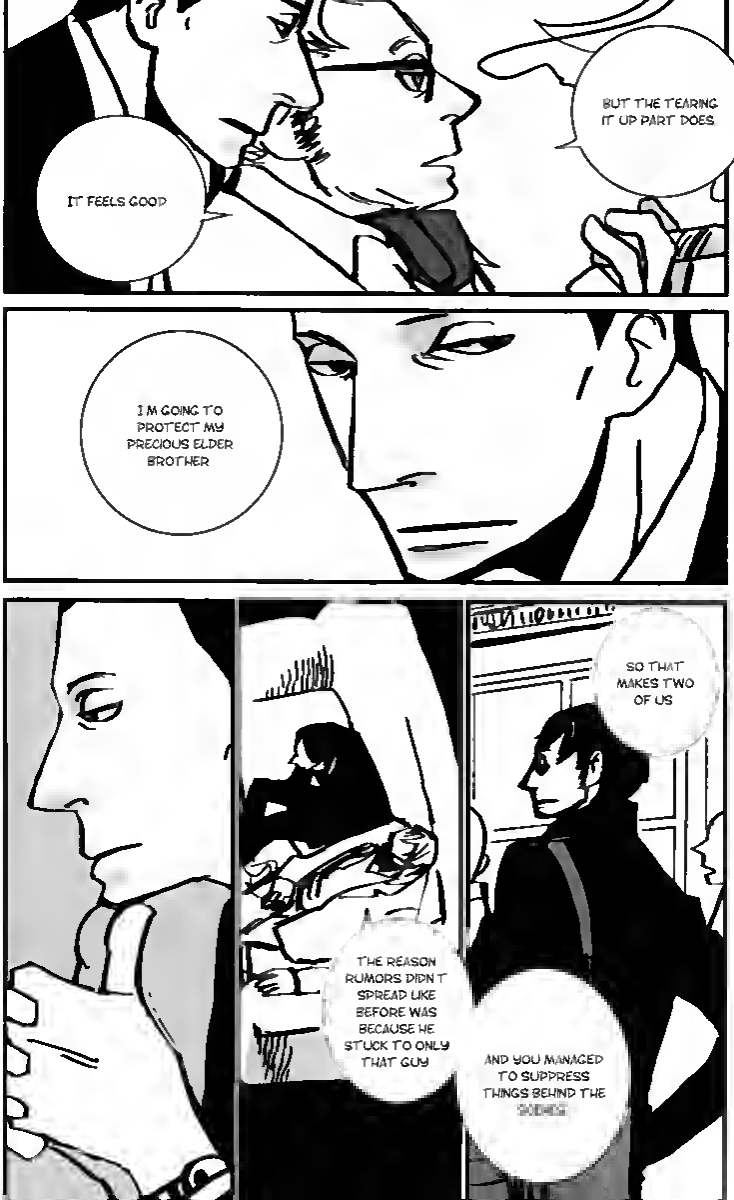
ARE YOU THE CAMERAMAN TODAY?
WE DIDN'T PLACE A REQUEST
NO
YOUR BEARD...
HE TOLD ME TO SHAVE
HE ASKED ME TO COME AS A FRIEND.
WITHOUT YOUR BEARD

YOU LOOK SO MUCH YOUNGER


HEY
YOU'RE HERE EARLY
The party doesn't start until 8

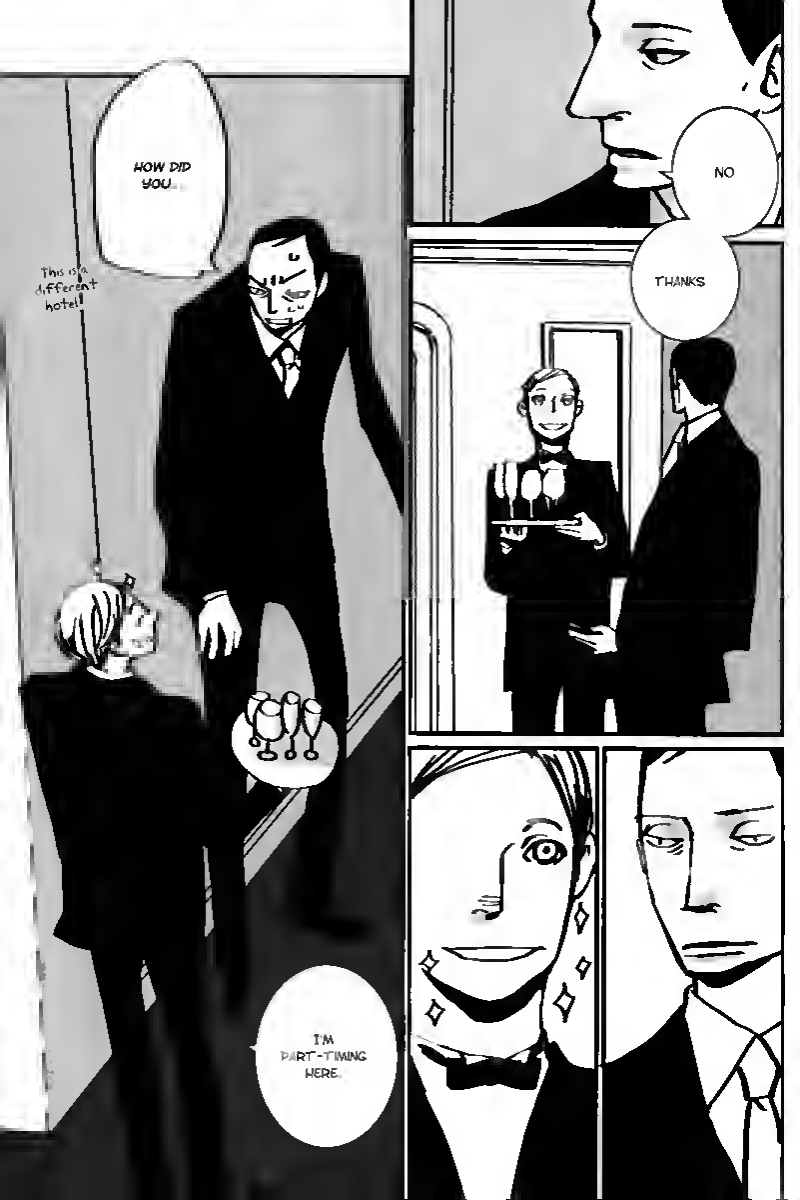
HUH? DID HE SHAVE OFF HIS BEARD ?

I'M SOMEWHAT SATISFIED WITH HIS NEW LOOK
HE'S GETTING CLOSER TO BECOMING ELDER BROTHER'S TYPE
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE TO *DESTROY* ALL OF THE CARRARO FAMILY'S PHOTOS
HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
FEEL?
NOT GOOD I TELL YA
BUT SEEING PICTURES OF MY BROTHER CAVORTING WITH YOUNG MEN
DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY PLEASURE EITHER.


IT FEELS GOOD
BUT THE TEARING IT UP PART DOES.
I'M GOING TO PROTECT MY PRECIOUS ELDER BROTHER
SO THAT MAKES TWO OF US
THE REASON RUMORS DIDN'T SPREAD LIKE BEFORE WAS BECAUSE HE STUCK TO ONLY THAT GUY
AND YOU MANAGED TO SUPPRESS THINGS BEHIND THE SCENES

DID YOU KNOW
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MEANS THE MOST TO THE SENATOR?
OF COURSE
THAT'S WHY I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HIS SAKE

CARE FOR A DRINK?


HOW DID YOU...
This is a different hotel!
I'M PART-TIMING HERE.
NO
THANKS

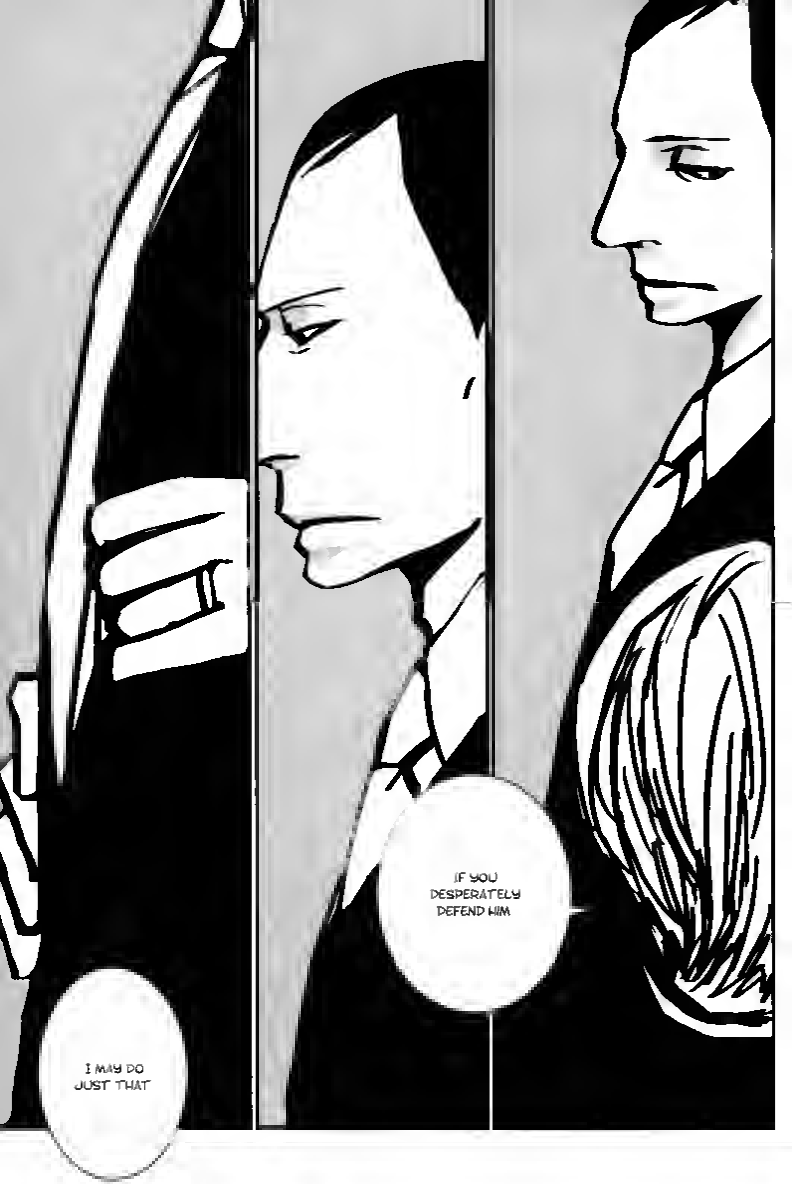
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE SENATOR
!
IT'S YOU
I'M GLAD I CAME TO HELP.
WE DON'T HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET.
YOU CAN COUNT ON CARRARO TO HAVE A SUCH A BIG-SCALE GATHERING
I TOLD YOU I'M INTO "INTERI"
IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO HAVE SLEPT WITH CARRARO ONCE
!
mmgh
YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW

Can't, I'm still on duty.
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SEEING YOU AGAIN.
I'LL... GIVE YOU MY CELL NUMBER
YOU'LL EITHER CHANGE IT
OR BLOCK MY CALLS.
.....
I have to keep a close watch on him.
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT YOU TO PROMISE TO MEET
JUST GO ON BEING HIS SECRETARY

SAY...
IS THE ROOM UPSTAIRS EMPTY?
LET'S TALK, JUST THE TWO OF US
IT MIGHT HELP ME TO FORGET ALL ABOUT CARRARO

IT WOULD BE A DISASTER IF WORD GOT OUT ABOUT CARRARO'S HOMOSEXUALITY... RIGHT?
FINE, I'LL GO THERE.
LOWER YOUR VOICE.
HE'S GAY, BUT HE'S IN A PARTY THAT OPPOSES HOMOSEXUALITY
MAKES DISCRIMINATORY SPEECHES
AND ON TOP OF THAT, ISN'T HE BETRAYING HIS OWN SUPPORTERS?

IS HE REALLY WORTH IT?
YOU'RE DESPERATELY TRYING TO DEFEND THAT SORT OF MAN.
YOU SAID YOU'D FORGET ALL ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHO I CHOOSE TO WORK FOR.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR EXCELLENCE AS A SECRETARY
AREN'T THERE MORE IMPORTANT PEOPLE YOU COULD FOLLOW?


IF YOU DESPERATELY DEFEND HIM
I MAY DO JUST THAT

DON'T YOU HAVE TO TAKE OFF YOUR RING?
THIS...IS MY JOB.
CAN'T WE USE THE BED?
NO.
I'LL FIX IT

I DON'T SEE YOUR SECRETARY ANYWHERE
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HE SAID HE NEEDED TO TAKE A SHORT REST IN THE ROOM UPSTAIRS
HE'S OFTEN SICK THESE DAYS

HE'S ALWAYS UP AND RUNNING FOR MY SAKE
I SHOULD LET HIM HAVE A BREAK

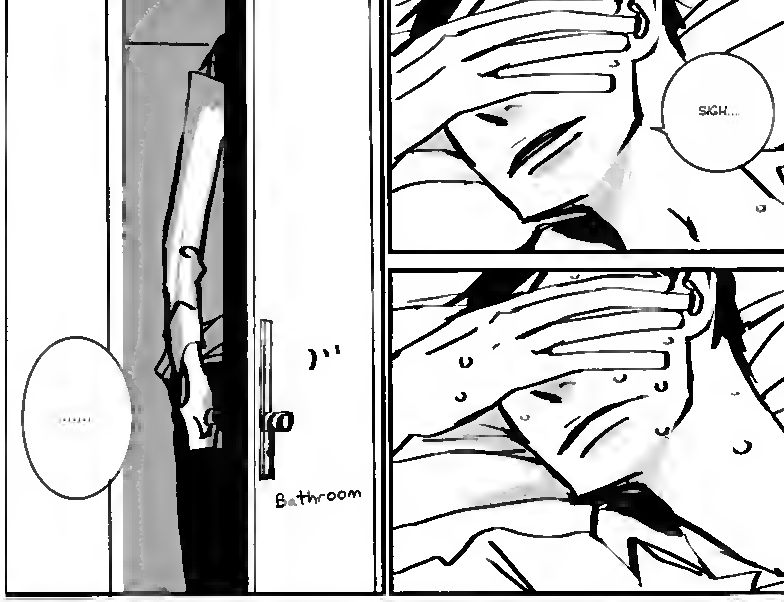
haa

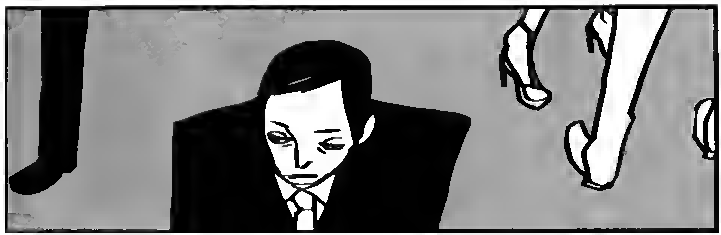
haa
I'LL HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING
AS LONG AS YOU WORK FOR ME
hff ...

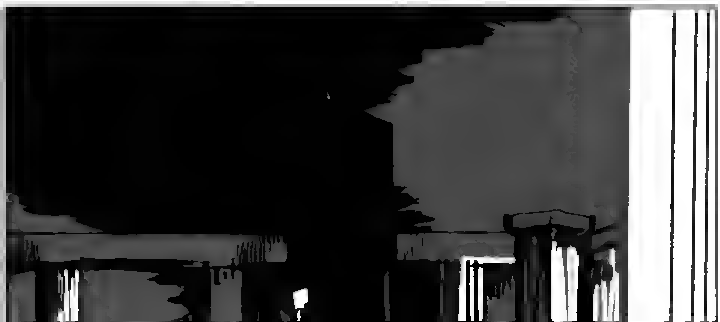
haa.
COERCION

THANKS FOR THE TREAT!
KTUNK
I'll stop as a thanks for your cooperation
WILL MAKE AL MAD AT ME SO I WON'T DO IT

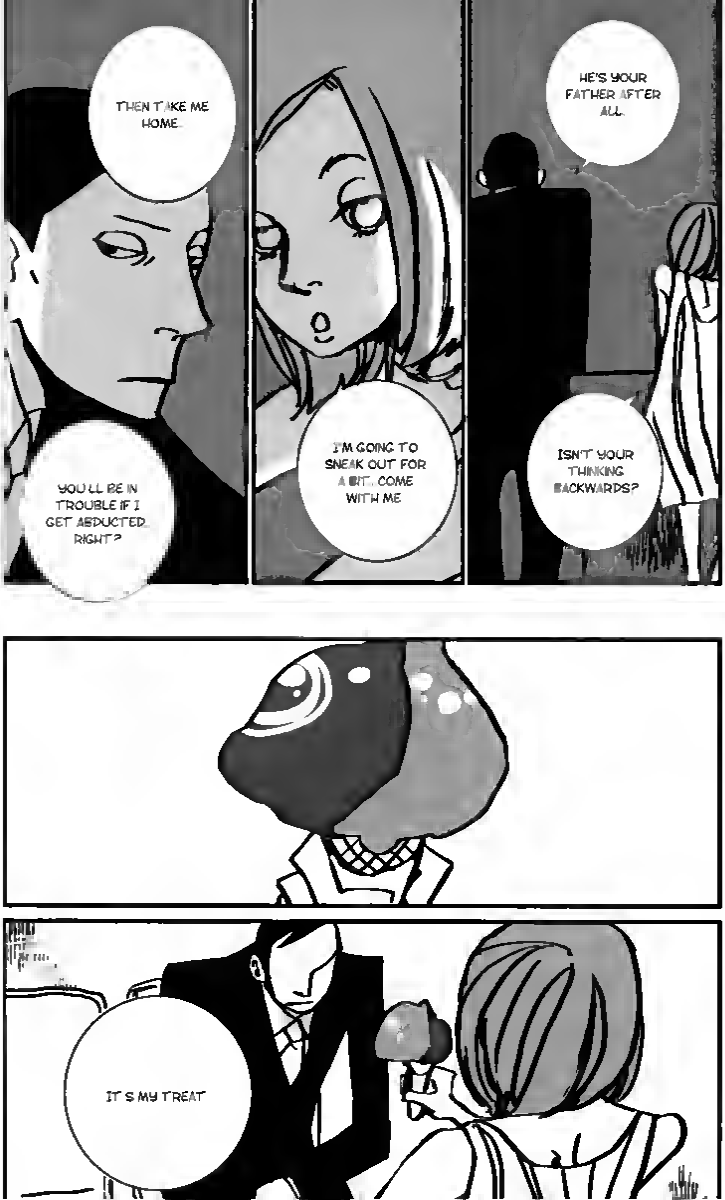
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO ALL THIS...?


SIGH...
.....
Bathroom

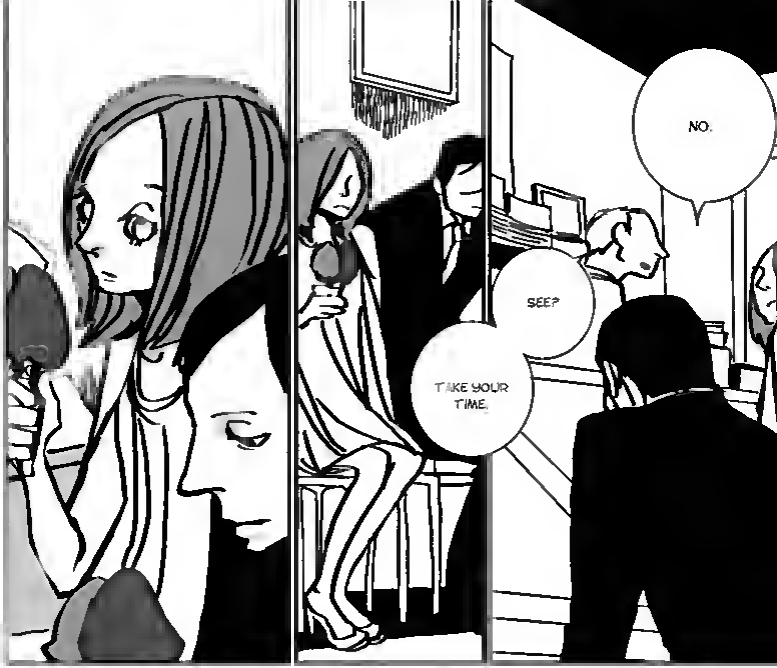


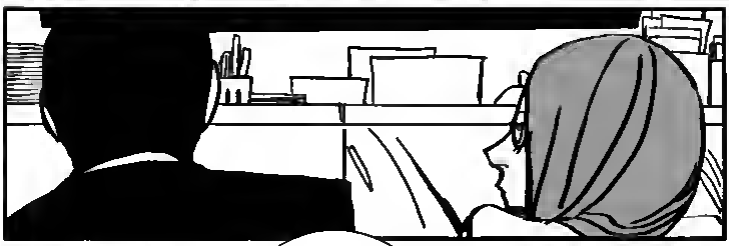


YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
IT'S HOT TODAY.
OF COURSE IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH BEING PAPA'S SECRETARY.

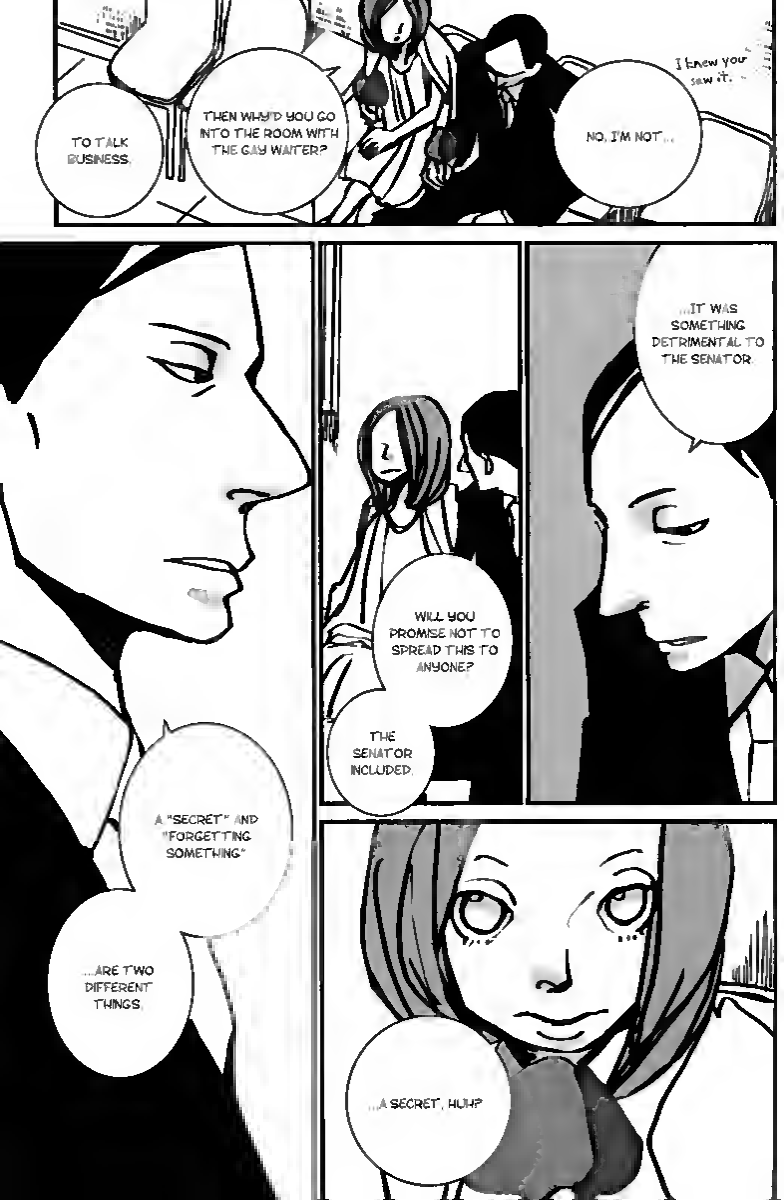

THEN TAKE ME HOME.
YOU'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF I GET ABDUCTED, RIGHT?
I'M GOING TO SNEAK OUT FOR A BIT. COME WITH ME.
HE'S YOUR FATHER AFTER ALL.
ISN'T YOUR THINKING BACKWARDS?
IT'S MY TREAT.

HE'S MY FATHER'S SECRETARY.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO A POLITICIAN?
CAN YOU REVISE THE LAW TO ALLOW GAY MARRIAGE?
DI MARCELLO
YOU CAME TO THIS SHOP A LONG TIME AGO.
YEP. YOU REMEMBERED?
I COME SOMETIMES.
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE... REMEMBER?
OH...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THOUGH.
AT LEAST TELL HIM


NO.
SEE?
TAKE YOUR TIME.



ARE YOU GAY?


I knew you saw it.
NO, I'M NOT...
TO TALK BUSINESS.
THEN WHY'D YOU GO INTO THE ROOM WITH THE GAY WAITER?
...IT WAS SOMETHING DETRIMENTAL TO THE SENATOR.
WILL YOU PROMISE NOT TO SPREAD THIS TO ANYONE?
THE SENATOR INCLUDED.
A "SECRET" AND "FORGETTING SOMETHING"
...ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
...A SECRET, HUH?

I'LL FORGET IT.
FINE...
PAPA MUST BE YOUR MATTER OF HIGHEST PRIORITY HUH?
HE SHOULD BE MORE APPRECIATIVE.

I KNOW.
I DON'T DO THINGS BECAUSE I EXPECT SOMETHING IN RETURN
I DON'T NEED THAT.
ANNA TELLS ME I NEED TO BE MORE APPRECIATIVE TOWARD YOU.
HOW ABOUT DINNER?

DON'T THINK TOO MUCH
YOU'VE BECOME A BIT TIMID AFTER FALLING ILL
AND WORK FOR ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

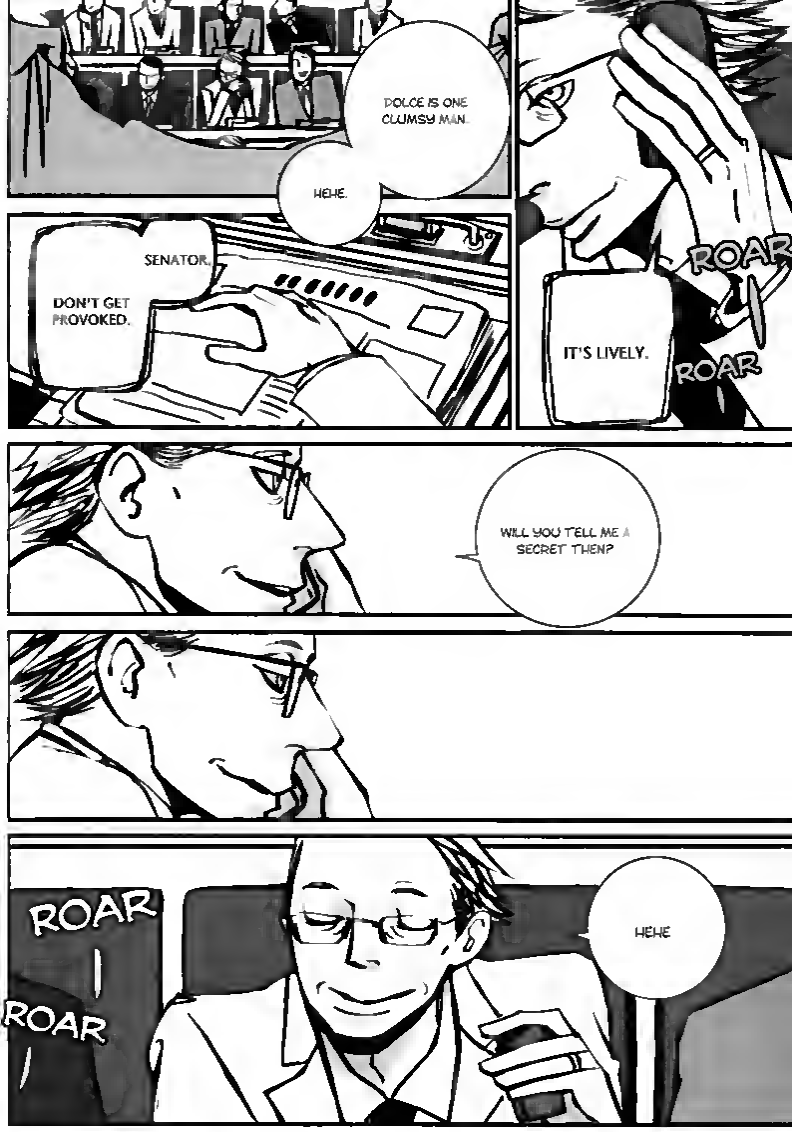
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE AT THE PARTY THE OTHER DAY
THOUGH YOU DID SKIP YOUR DUTIES
SENATOR

I'M KEEPING A SECRET FROM YOU
HOWEVER YOU MUST'N'T KEEP ANY SECRETS FROM ME

THAT'S ONE-SIDED
BUT I WON'T IF YOU INSIST

◆ END ◆

7


DOLCE IS ONE CLUMSY MAN.
HEHE.
SENATOR, DON'T GET PROVOKED.
ROAR
IT'S LIVELY.
ROAR
WILL YOU TELL ME A SECRET THEN?
ROAR
ROAR
HEHE

WHAT REVOLVES AROUND AL AND NERI

by Basso

Thank you...

RAW PROVIDER.....ROOFTOP SCENERY
TRANSLATOR.....HATS
PROOFREADER.....MIWA CHAN
CLEANER.....KPOSSIBLE
TYPESETER.....MINELAUVA
QUALITY CHECK.....STILETT

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STORY 6-7

8

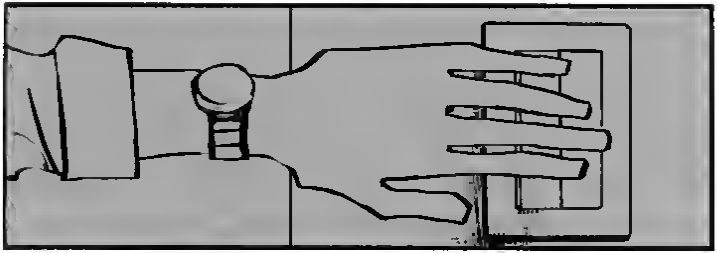
BAR
CALLING DOWN THE CURTAINS AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL WILL ONLY CREATE AN ODD DISTURBANCE
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GO ABOUT IT, RIGHT,
DOLCE?
IF ONLY YOU WOULD ACT A LITTLE WISER~

WHAT?
BE MY GUEST
IF YOU ACTED JUST A LITTLE WISER
YOU'D BE ABLE TO CLIMB THE RANKS
HAHAHA
GOOD LUCK

BUT ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE BAILING ME OUT?

WHAT HAPPENED?
HE'S AN INTRIGUING MAN

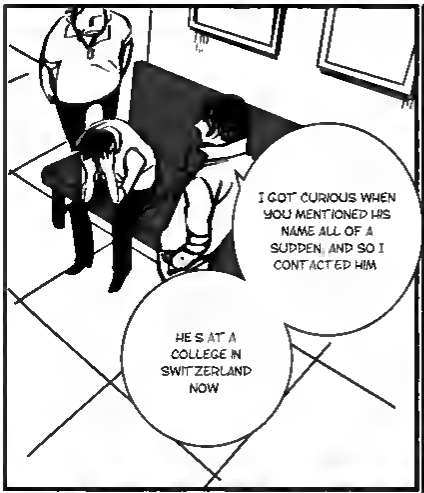
"IF ONLY YOU'D ACT A LITTLE WISER."
CARRARO SOUNDS JUST LIKE HIM
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING
WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO NOW...



Flick

WORKING LATE
UNBELIEVABLE
OH I GOT A TEXT

A TALK EVENT?


I GOT CURIOUS WHEN YOU MENTIONED HIS NAME ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND SO I CONTACTED HIM
HE'S AT A COLLEGE IN SWITZERLAND NOW

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

HE TOLD ME HE USUALLY COMES BACK FOR THE SUMMER, SO I INVITED HIM TO OUR CONVENTION.
I ASKED HIM IF HE COULD PARTICIPATE AS A GUEST IN THE PROGRAM.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM
WHY D YOU MENTION HIM IF YOU DIDN'T?
HE'S ONE OF THE TOP FOUNDING MEMBERS OF OUR PARTY. OUR SUPPORTERS WILL BE HAPPY
THEN HE SAID HE WOULDN'T MIND TURNING UP IF IT WAS FOR YOUR SPEECH

...I DO WANT TO SEE HIM A LITTLE
AL
YOU MUST BE TIRED.

HE'D HAVE BEEN INTERESTING IF HE CONTINUED AS A POLITICIAN
NOW! LET'S START THE BULL SESSION AND TALK ABOUT THE CONVENTION
IT'S ALL CARARRO'S FAULT

LONG TIME NO SEE
NO
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU!
GO EASY ON ME.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
TIGHTEN UP THAT TIE.

MANY OF YOU HERE MAY NOT KNOW THIS
BUT WHEN I WAS AT THE BRANCH IN ROME, THIS MAN HERE HAD BARELY JOINED THE PARTY
HE WAS WORKING PART-TIME IN OUR DEPARTMENT. LET'S SEE, I BELIEVE HE WAS ABOUT EIGHTEEN AT THE TIME
HAVE YOU MATURED AS A POLITICIAN?
I EXPECT GOOD THINGS TO COME TO YOU.
YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO GET BUSIER FROM NOW ON.
HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT. IT MAKES YOU WANT TO LAUGH
kaha ha kaha
IF YOU WIN OVER THE LEFT WING ALLIANCE AT OUR UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION

THEN DON'T FORGET TO CONTINUE
DOING WHAT HAS TO BE DONE
YOU WILL NOT GIVE THE PEOPLE HERE ANY CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT
AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT FORGET

I'M BEAT
GOING TO REST FOR A SEC.

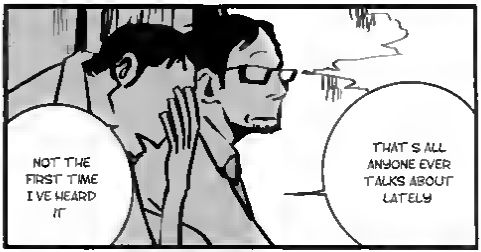
YOU SAID IT
SO EASILY

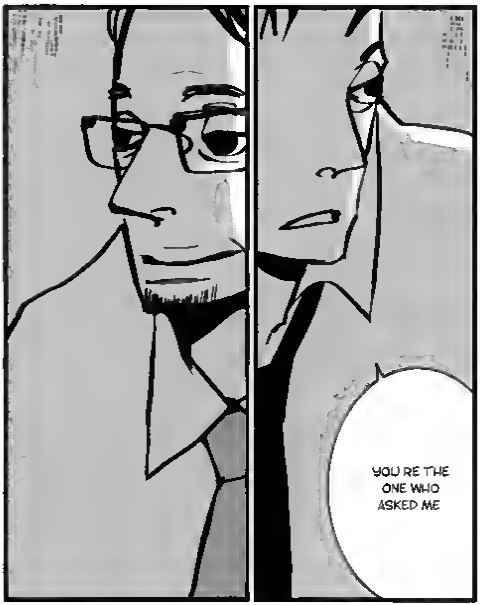
... BUT I FEEL
RELIEVED

I FOUND THE PHOTO OF YOU BEING AMBUSHED AT THE GAY PARADE HIGHLY AMUSING
I HAVE IT WITH ME
SEE?
THAT HAPPENED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, OKAY?
DON'T BOTHER...

HE ISN'T VERY FAITHFUL
WON'T THAT UPSET YOUR PARTNER?
HM?
SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE A LOT OF BILLS WAITING TO BE POLISHED.
YOU MUST BE BUSY
AND YOU HAVE YOUR WORK
HAVE YOU BEEN PHILANDERING AS WELL?

WHO HAVE YOU DONE AMONG THIS LOT?


NOT THE FIRST TIME I VE HEARD IT
THAT S ALL ANYONE EVER TALKS ABOUT LATELY


YOU RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME

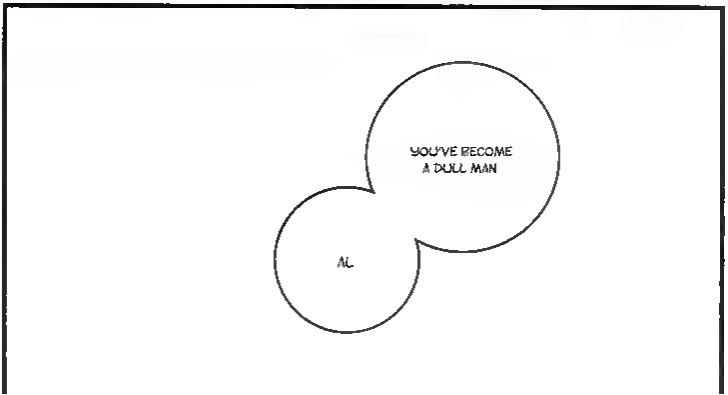
WHO HAVE YOU DONE AMONG THIS LOT?

"DONE" ?
IF YOU WERE
JUST A LITTLE WISER,

YOU'D REALLY BE MY TYPE
ARE YOU PLANNING TO GET SMART?
IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME THEN YOU NEED TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER
TO GET MY ATTENTION
...GET SMART?

I DON'T LOVE YOU.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE REST
A YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU CAN DO.

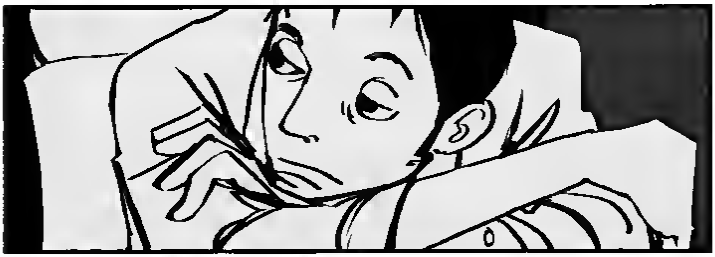
IF YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE WISER
YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY TYPE
I DON'T INTEND TO SWAY YOU
IT'S SIMPLY AN INVITATION FOR TONIGHT

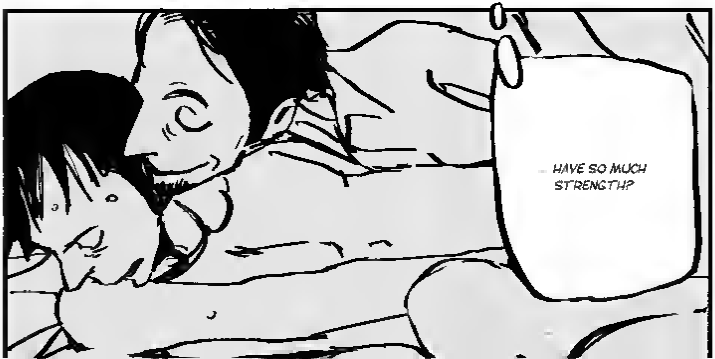

YOU'VE BECOME
A DULL MAN
AL

slap
slap
HE WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH A MAN

THAT TIME

WHY DID HE




...HAVE SO MUCH STRENGTH?

TO THINK THAT I WAS THE ONE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU FIRST WHEN YOU WERE SEVENTEEN
IT'S TOO LATE
HE'LL NEVER CHANGE...
Always screwing with me...

HEY
WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?
WENT TO THE GYM ATE DINNER WITH EVERYONE
AND JUST GOT HOME EARLIER

STRATEGIZING AND SUCH
THAT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU
THIS PROGRAM'S BEEN SHOWING A BUNCH OF COUPLES LIKE THAT
IF THEY'RE COMPATIBLE
bip
IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?

SPORT'S NEWS
THEN NO IT'S NOT
I HAVEN'T BEEN GIVING YOU MUCH ATTENTION
So I just wondered...
HM?
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING OUTSIDE LATELY?
HMM
JUST KISSING?
Messing with that secretary!

I HAVEN'T SLEPT WITH ANYONE ELSE EVER SINCE I MOVED HERE
WHAT?
REALLY?
IT'S TRUE.

◆THE END◆

初出一覧

1 ---------
「OPERA」vol.09 ーエローー
(2008年1月)

2 ---------
「OPERA」vol.11 ーインテリーー
(2008年7月)

3 ---------
「OPERA」vol.14 ー家家ー
(2009年4月)

4 ---------
描きおろし

5 ---------
「OPERA」vol.16 ーマリアーシューー
(2009年8月)

6 ---------
「OPERA」vol.17 ー秘密ー
(2009年10月)

7 ---------
描きおろし

8 ---------
「OPERA」vol.21 ー幅け引きー
(2010年6月)

WHAT REVOLVES AROUND AL AND NERI

by Basso

STORY 8

Thank you...

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TRANSLATOR.....HATS
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